

Hat-trick heroes in colour

SHOOT!

22p

Norwich City full-back
Kevin Bond (yellow shirt)
clears from West Brom
midfielder Gary Owen

26th JULY, 1980



SHOOT'S
NATIONWIDE
*continuing our regional
look at the League*

Villa's new star
PETER WITHE

GORDON HILL
on his way back

'My fear'
GLENN HODDLE



SHOOT'S Nationwide The SOUTH

—the second part of a five week regional survey to see where the honours could go next season.

Arsenal and Southampton — who spearheaded the South's assault on the First Division honours last season — showed they meant business by splashing heavily in the transfer market to make sure they maintain the impetus.

The Gunners, whose one big failing last season was a dismal lack of firepower, are confident they have put that right with the arrival of Clive Allen from Queens Park Rangers for £1,250,000.

That's a colossal amount for a player still not out of his teens. But if he produces the goals to enable Arsenal to turn agonising near misses into a title triumph it will be money well spent.

And heaven knows what it cost Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy to pull off the most breathtaking coup since Tottenham captured Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa from Argentina.

Acknowledged

We mean, of course, the signing of Kevin Keegan — European Footballer of the Year in 1979 and 1980 and freely acknowledged as one of the best in the world.

Keegan, whose contract with Hamburg SV has just expired, could have had his pick, for clubs were queuing to sign him. Italian giants Juventus and Spanish aces Barcelona were among them — yet KK chose homely Southampton, whose entire ground is not much bigger than the boot room of the top foreign clubs trying to lure him.

It was an incredible achievement by McMenemy, who can be sure that the sight of Keegan in a Saints shirt will pack the Dell to capacity.

The injection of new blood into both camps is certain to keep them among the pacemakers in the First Division title race and we take Arsenal to again be the South's best bet.

OK. So they don't score many goals. But they don't give away too many, either and their tremendous discipline and organisation — to say nothing of a cautious 4-4-2 system — makes them mighty hard to beat.

The Saints will be pushing them all the way and we expect the early

stimulus of Keegan's arrival to give them a flying start.

But watch out for Crystal Palace — who should improve drastically on last season's 13th position.

Terry Venables' exciting young team zoomed into the First Division last season labelled extravagantly "the team of the Eighties" — a title that was to prove a heavy burden to carry.

After a magnificent start — they even topped the table for a brief spell in September — they were brought face-to-face with the harsh realities of life in the First Division by the likes of Southampton and Liverpool, who both gave them hidings.

A few heads had gone into the clouds after that early surge. But skipper Jim Cannon assures us that everyone's feet are firmly on the ground in readiness for the big kick-off.

"It's possible that we got a bit carried away and let that early success go to our heads," he admits.

"But we soon learned a few sharp lessons. The attitude will be absolutely right this time and we



Glory a flying if Clive Allen

Then they looked like relegation candidates for the first three months before finding out that there was not too much to be frightened of after all.

Fear of the opposition was responsible for Brighton's disastrous start and it was not until November, when they caused a shock by winning at Nottingham Forest, that the Seagulls really began to believe in themselves.

Early in the close season manager Alan Mullery signed Gordon Smith — a player he described as the "Scottish Trevor Brooking". And money is available for more new players.

Brighton, who have a sponsorship link with British Caledonian this season, have started on massive improvements at the Goldstone and chairman Mike Bamber is convinced they will make a big impression this time.

"We are over all the nerves and uncertainty now. We know we are good enough to do well in the First Division and will go out and prove it now," he declares.

Another gripping promotion scramble looks likely in the Second Division. Chelsea, Luton, Q.P.R. and West Ham — four clubs who missed out last season — are still in there scrapping to get back to the Big League.

And we think Rangers and West

will all be better players for the experiences of last season."

We don't expect anything too sensational from Tottenham — despite the arrival of £800,000 Scottish international striker Steve Archibald, from Aberdeen.

He should provide the goals they, like North London neighbours Arsenal, were lacking. But overall a mid-table spot looks about right for Spurs.

And the same goes for Brighton, which will represent a significant improvement on last season.



Palace skipper Jim Cannon (left) predicts a better season for his side. West Ham and Queens Park Rangers (above) should both be involved in the Second Division promotion stakes.

for Gunners — start for Saints.... and Kevin Keegan hit form

Ham are the best equipped to do it. Although, in Rangers' case, that is provided there are none of the internal upheavals that rocked the club in the summer when controversial boss Tommy Docherty was sacked... then reinstated ten days later.

A revolt by players and season ticket holders forced chairman Jim Gregory into a hasty change of mind after Docherty had dramatically departed.

The Doc was brought back to the delight of skipper Glenn Roeder, who said: "He has done a wonderful job in the year he has been here, restoring spirit and confidence as he rebuilt the team."

"It was all credit to the Doc that we went so near to achieving promotion and now he is back with us we are all certain we will pull it off next season."

Surprises

Rangers have, of course, got to find a replacement for 30-goal Clive Allen — now with Arsenal. But Docherty has never been short of surprises and you can be sure he will come up with something.

West Ham's failure to make a bigger impression on last season's title race was one of the mysteries of the year. For on the occasions SHOOT reporters watched them they looked the outstanding team in the Second Division.

Their staggering success in winning the F.A. Cup was blamed. And in that Cup run the Hammers showed their pedigree by knocking out four First Division teams.

But long-serving skipper Billy Bonds does not go along with those who claim the Cup success got in the way of the main objective — promotion.

"I know we lost a few silly

matches after reaching the Semi-Final. But as far as I'm concerned the damage was done much earlier — way back in August and September," claims the lion-hearted Bonds.

"We had a terrible start and were six or seven points behind the leaders after about six weeks."

"That's a very big gap to make up, even at that early stage of the season, and when we did put together a fine run it did no more than put us back in touch."

"It was obvious for a long time that if we slipped up again we would be out of the race. And that's precisely what happened."

All the West Ham players are sick at missing out for the second successive season and they kick off this time firm favourites to make it third time lucky.

Chelsea often failed to impress, yet managed to sustain a promotion challenge that died only when Sunderland beat West Ham 48 hours after the F.A. Cup Final.

We doubt Chelseas ability to go that close again and expect Luton to be ahead of them.

The Hatters, too, endured the heartache of just missing out. But before the season was over manager David Pleat said that if he had a choice of promotion years he would pick NEXT year.

He could well get his wish — and we expect his Luton side to have learned enough from last term and to have gained that extra vital experience to be in there among them again.

And keep an eye on Orient, who could prove a surprise packet in the promotion stakes.

A shocking start last time killed immediately any hopes they had of making a serious challenge. But the O's are well organised, difficult to break down and given the

Kevin Keegan and Lawrie McMenemy seek to transform Southampton.

breaks should do well.

And we expect Watford to improve on last season — which they spent fighting against an immediate return to the Third Division.

Manager Graham Taylor turned his team inside out to equip them for the higher grade and there were unmistakable signs that the six new players he introduced were settling. Look for them in the top half this time.

Fulham's dive into the Third Division was a real turn up — for there were at least half-a-dozen clubs in the Second inferior to them.

But the spirit remained intact as they were relegated and they are confident they can get back at the first time of asking. They must try to tackle it without skipper Richard Money — transferred to Liverpool for £400,000 — and probably 'keeper Gerry Peyton and midfielder John Beck, who have



after years of clinging on grimly. And the size of the job Mike Bailey both asked for transfers.

Charlton went down with them has taken on at London's most rundown club could mean they will take longer to climb back up.

Millwall flattered to deceive last year. And it will be no surprise if they do the same again while the many teenagers in their side mature and gain experience and consistency.

Brentford should do well now that old hand Ron Harris has left Chelsea, after 20 years, to link up with Fred Callaghan at Griffin Park.

Portsmouth can look forward to one thing — they will be the best supported team in the Third Division.

The team manager Frank Burrows has put together has brought the fans flooding back to Fratton Park.

Portsmouth got out of the Fourth Division when it looked like they had blown their chance. The quality of their football could be better suited to the Third and expect them to flourish.

Leaders

Reading might surprise a few people — they got in among the leaders for a spell late last season. But don't look for too much from Gillingham or Oxford.

If Fulham's relegation to the Third Division was a surprise it is difficult to find words to describe Southend's slump into the Fourth.

They proved they are one of the best teams in the lower sections by knocking First Division Bolton out of the League Cup and taking West Ham to three games.

Although indifferent results sent them sliding down the table our guess is that most people regarded relegation as something that just could not happen.

But happen it did. Now manager Dave Smith faces the job of restoring sagging morale to fight the battles ahead. If he does that Southend should be heavily involved in the promotion race.

Aldershot have threatened to get out of the Fourth for the past few years but have never managed to do it. They might just break that sequence this time.

But expect no more than respectability from relegated Wimbledon.



Charlton finally succumbed to the threat of relegation last season. Southend manager Dave Smith (inset).

McKenzie's debt to Dave Mackay

BLACKBURN Rovers' immediate return to the Second Division was highlighted by the leadership of player-manager Howard Kendall, the new-found goalscoring talent of Andy Crawford, and the deft wing play of transfer-seeking Northern Ireland international Noel Brotherston.

Yet one man who has seen it all before probably did as much as anyone to inspire the team's promotion. He is Duncan McKenzie who will be returning to the stage on which he has starred many times.

When McKenzie left Chelsea for Blackburn in March 1979, the £100,000 fee took the total expenditure for his talents to nearly a million pounds, and with it a wealth of experience of the highlights and lowlights of the Football League, and indeed, of Continental football.

As he explains, at no time did he view the transfer as a step down.

"I knew Blackburn were then a Second Division club shortly to be relegated, but I could tell that it would take only a couple of seasons at the most before they were back again.

"Three months after I signed, Howard Kendall arrived, and there were a number of changes. New people came on the board bringing fresh ideas, and everywhere in the club I sensed an ambitious mood. Certainly it has been a pleasure to play for them."

McKenzie, now 30, has spent his professional career with seven clubs (Nottingham Forest, Mansfield, Leeds, Anderlecht, Everton, Chelsea and now Blackburn). "In that time, I think, I have served under about 20 different managers, and seen the best and worst of the profession.

"I am learning a lot from Howard Kendall, and although I would like to get into management myself, I would equally like to try my hand

at sporting journalism, especially covering football.

"At my age, I regard each new season as a bonus. I am just happy to be involved."

McKenzie's own exciting and essentially different style of play has caused a few problems in the past. His talents have not always found favour with those selecting the teams and he puts this down to the pressures on modern managers.

"In this day and age, where so much depends on results, they prefer to go for safety rather than skill. As long as they don't lose, they're happy. At the moment there are a lot of runners in the First Division, but not so many forward players who have the ability to do things with a ball."

He has no doubt who has helped him the most during his career.

'Doldrums'

"If it wasn't for Dave Mackay, I don't think I would still be playing," he says. "I was in the doldrums at Forest when he came along as manager, and gave me personal encouragement. He showed he believed in me and, in turn, I believed in him. He really lifted me, and I am greatly in debt to him.

"But nowadays, life is a little quieter. That's the way I like it. I have had a lot of pressure in the past, but now I feel much of it has been lifted from me. The youngsters get more of the limelight at Rovers which helps me get on with my game."

When McKenzie wants to "get away from it all," he hasn't far to go.

"My wife Dot has just bought a florist's shop at Haydock not far from where we live, and there's always a lot to do. When I'm not travelling, playing, or training next season, you can bet I'll be among the daffs and roses!"



'I wouldn't mind playing in West Germany'

ONE OF the most terrifying sights in football is Joe Jordan staring at a defender with his teeth out.

"But is the big feller really as tough as he looks?" asks Alan Cook, who lives in Hornchurch, Essex.

My close friend is certainly no soccer saint on the field, Alan. He's no real villain, either.

Joe's a physical player who receives a great deal of stick simply because of the role he plays.

He goes in for balls others wouldn't and puts himself about where it hurts most . . . in opponent's penalty areas.

Last season Joe was a revelation for United and one of the reasons why we ran Liverpool so close for the Championship.

Never a great goalscorer in the past, Joe was United's top marksman last season with 13 in the League. But he didn't only score goals, he helped make them as well.

The main factor behind Joe's incredible form was a renewed con-

fidence in his own ability.

We also realised he had more football ability than previously given credit for.

Joe's strength has been in the air, where he kills everything. But last season we played more balls to his feet and he thrived on the service.

Off the field, Joe is gentle, quiet and modest . . . one of the nicest guys you could wish to meet.

But put a red, or blue shirt on his back, take out his front teeth and you are faced with a player who is definitely X certificate.

Arthur Collins, a Stretford Ender from Hazel Grove, Cheshire, wants to know if Martin Buchan will be playing for United next season.

You've obviously read reports in the paper of Martin's pay dispute with the club, Arthur.

Naturally, I can't comment on what goes on between Martin and Dave Sexton, or how much he earns, but I certainly hope Martin is with us not only next season but for a few more years to come.





Bayern Munich (dark strip) and Cologne represent the best of European soccer in the West German Bundesliga they have dominated lately.

I wish he would comb his hair occasionally!

On the park Kevin is as hard as they come. Back home in his native Dublin he was a Gaelic football star and you have to be tough to play that game well.

Away from Old Trafford, Kevin is a quiet, studious type. In fact he is a qualified accountant — which no doubt helps when he's negotiating his contract.

Quite a few letters ask the reasons for Steve Coppell's indifferent form last season.

Stevie is one of those players who works hard, buzzing about all the time, but is hardly ever spectacular. So the fans don't always appreciate his contribution to the team.

I know Steve wasn't completely satisfied with his form, especially in the European Championship in Italy. But we expect him to be back to his best when United kick-off next month.

Christine Matthews from Wrexham asks about her local-born hero Mickey Thomas.

We call him "The Bionic Brat", Christine, because he has an inexhaustible supply of energy on and off the field. He can never relax and is always on the move.

Mickey's a nice lad, as they all are at United, but we don't see much of him after matches.

He still lives in Rhyl, North Wales, and rushes straight home to his wife as soon as he's changed.

Several United fans have written asking for my opinion of the Old Trafford pitch which was a bit of a state last season.

The players complained about it and hope United have done something about it this summer.

There's a drainage problem made worse by a disease of the turf. The pitch had hardly any grass on it last season . . . the ground flaked and cut up which made it awkward to play good football on.

Mind you it wasn't the groundsman's fault. We thought he did a tremendous job under very difficult circumstances.

I understand the club are considering putting in undersoil heating. That should help cure the Old Trafford pitch problems.

John Cannon, from Croydon, Surrey, asks: "If you had the chance to go abroad which team would you choose to play for?"

Spain sounds attractive, so do Real Madrid and Barcelona, but I don't think I would go out there.

The style of living, food and most of all the heat would get me down. It's often far too hot out there for football, let alone training.

I've no plans to go Continental, but if I did then I'd prefer West Germany . . . and either Bayern Munich or Cologne.

Consider

Obviously if one of their top clubs made me an offer I'd have to seriously consider a move. After all, I've a family to support.

Maybe I'll think about playing in the States when I'm near the end of my career. But that's a long way off yet . . . I hope.

Carol King, a United fan from Stockport, would like to know if I want to be a manager one day.

Yes, I'd love to become a boss and stay in the game when I retire from playing, Carol.

Obviously I'd like to take over a big First Division club. The thought of stepping down a couple of Divisions to learn the trade wouldn't appeal at all.

In most cases it would mean a continual struggle . . . mostly financial. Most clubs from the lower Divisions can't afford to spend money on building a team good enough to be successful.

Finally, many of you readers share my hatred of hooligans and ask if I'm worried about the situation.

Yes, I am. Stop hooliganism and gates would shoot up. The actions of a few mindless morons are the main cause of falling attendances.

The main cause is drink. Stop selling it on supporters trains . . . make it harder to get in supermarkets close to grounds . . . make clubs responsible for their fans . . . get tougher with the culprits.

Despite these louts, though, there are still a lot of good things to look forward to next season . . . like Kevin Keegan now back in this country with Southampton.

While there are still players like him around football will not only survive, but thrive.

See you next time . . .

Martin is a tremendous professional, keeps himself 100 per cent fit and is a great influence and inspiration to the younger players. United would miss him.

Tony Simmons, who comes from Birmingham, wants to know if I'm worried about my own future at United.

He reckons Kevin Moran is a bet-

ter player and should wear the number five shirt next season.

Sorry, Tony, I don't intend moving on just yet.

Kevin has everything going for him and did a tremendous job when he stood in while I was out injured last term.

He's a typical Irish lad . . . rough and ready and generally cheerful. I've only one criticism to make . . .



Joe Jordan is a transformed character as soon as he gets out on the pitch. Aggression is one of his greatest assets.

Will 'Merlin the Magician' cast new spells?



WHEN Tommy Docherty sensationally resigned as manager of Derby County in May 1979 and took over at Queens Park Rangers, Gordon Hill was certain of one thing: "I won't be joining The Doc for a third time."

Signed by Docherty for Manchester United in November, 1975, Gordon followed him to Derby County in April, 1978 after Dave Sexton had made it painfully clear the England winger did not figure in his future plans as the new manager of Manchester United.

"I still miss the glamour of United," says Gordon, whose exciting yet unpredictable skills and explosive shooting power had established him as a firm favourite with a Stretford End not noted for its love of Cockneys.

"Dave Sexton wanted me to change my style completely," says

Gordon. "Not only was I required to score my usual quota of 15-20 goals a season, but stop them as well."

"I tried to get more involved but knew I would never click with him."

"When I heard Tommy Docherty wanted me for Derby County I thought it best to move on, although deep down I hoped a London club would make a bid for me."

But in just his fourth game for Derby, Gordon received a serious knee injury which was to keep him sidelined for most of the 1978/79 season.

Apart from a fear of never playing again, his marriage to Jackie was breaking up.

Within a few months the soccer world of a player destined for the very top had fallen apart.

"I was almost rock bottom," says Gordon. "Then came another bombshell when Tommy Docherty left Derby in a blaze of controversy."

Colin Addison took over at the Baseball Ground and like Dave Sexton made it apparent Hill wasn't his type of player.

"I knew my Derby days were numbered," says Gordon. "In the end I couldn't wait to get away."

But why agree to a transfer to Queens Park Rangers after being so determined never to play for The Doc again?

"I took a while to decide on the transfer," says Gordon. "But I needed to get back nearer home to sort out my personal life."

"Not only was The Doc giving me the opportunity, but after watching Rangers I realised what a lot of potential the team had."

"The thought of playing in the Second Division didn't bother me,

but ironically the day after I signed for Q.P.R. I heard Ipswich had also made a bid."

Did Gordon notice a change in The Doc?

"Oh, yes. He was much more subdued . . . not the flamboyant man I had known at United and Derby. His off-the-field problems had also robbed him of much of his bounce."

But Gordon Hill was not the success Tommy Docherty had paid another £200,000 for.

"I suffered a recurrence of my knee injury which kept me out of action for a long while."

"But I trained hard when the injury healed, determined to get back. I realised this could be a make-or-break situation for me."

Gordon regained his place in the Rangers side towards the end of the season, playing a slightly different role to that of orthodox winger.

"I played deeper in midfield, facing the goal with the ball. I found I enjoyed being more involved in the action."

'Settled'

"I can't wait for the new season to kick-off. I now feel part of the Rangers set-up, have settled my marriage problems (he's getting a divorce) and recently moved into a new house near Ascot."

"At the moment I'm a lot more secure and happier than at any time over the past couple of years."

But will the old Merlin magic return? Is Hill really on the way back?

"No promises. But if they give medals for determination and hard work then I'll qualify for one."

"My immediate priority is the First Division with Rangers. And England? Well, I'm under no illusions."

"But their lack of success in the European Championship has given me a glimmer of hope Ron Greenwood will look my way."

"The ball is firmly with me. If I fail to make a comeback I'll only have myself to blame."

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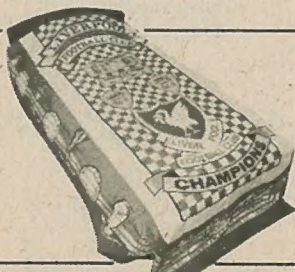
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'United were relegated, so why not Oldham for promotion?'

AFTER 20 years at Oldham as a player and manager, Jimmy Frizzell considers that there won't be a more favourable time than the early 1980's for him to realise his ultimate ambition — to take his club into the First Division.

"The gap between the top class, and the Second Division has lessened in recent years," says Frizzell. "When clubs like Manchester United and Wolves were relegated in the Seventies, it proved that no club had a divine right to automatically expect a place in the First Division. There has been a gradual levelling-out, and from some of Oldham's performances last season, I think we can now set ourselves a target to gain promotion."

Certainly for manager Frizzell the present situation at Boundary Park is a definite improvement on those tension-packed days a decade ago, when he was appointed Oldham boss and the club was in Division Four, facing re-election. Athletic just succeeded in avoiding the indignity of going cap-in-hand to the League, and since then the club's fortunes have improved dramatically.

Says Jimmy "We played our way out of trouble, we survived. Not only that — we climbed from the Fourth Division to the Second."

Yet while Oldham's status has improved, Frizzell remains concerned about the poor attendances at Boundary Park.

"We are in a higher Division, but



Oldham boss Jimmy Frizzell seeks better support for the club next season.

our gates haven't risen with us. I'm not having a go at the fans who stick with us through thick and thin, because I'm grateful to them for their support — I'm talking about the thousands who prefer watching television, or who spend the Saturdays shopping. Our home gates average around 7,000, but we need 17,000 to break even. What is required is for the missing few thousand to become used to watching football again.

'Necessary'

"What makes our attendances even worse is knowing that this summer Oldham must spend £250,000 on ground safety measures to maintain a capacity of 33,000. The work is necessary, and the money has to be found. It is going to cause us some financial problems, but the longer we put it off, the more the costs will soar.

"The money is needed through the turnstiles now, and I get frustrated at pubs and clubs when people tell me they will roll up when the club is getting somewhere. How can they say this? If they want First Division football they should roll up now, and help us to achieve it."

Already, improvements have been made at Boundary Park, including the installation of V.I.P. boxes, dressing rooms, offices and bars refurbished, and a new stand built which is in keeping with Oldham's position as a Second Division club.

In addition to the work on the ground, Frizzell is busy with plans to strengthen the team. He says: "We have had some good results, and the side has shown it can hold its own in the Second Division. But I want us to do better and become one of the leaders, and to accomplish this my aim is to pad out the squad with an extra three players. Once this has been done, we will be ready to go places."



Richard Kownicki, one of the young stars at Boundary Park.

As a youngster Mike Carter, the Bolton Wanderers centre-forward, always dreamed of playing for Manchester City, the team he idolised.

"I used to go every week to Maine Road from my home town of Warrington," he says. "Colin Bell, Francis Lee and Rodney Marsh were my heroes."

Now on a Saturday afternoon the 19-year-old takes a different route — the quickest to goal.

"I scored against Everton on Boxing Day when I came on as sub," he says, "and I grabbed a couple on a wet Tuesday night at West Bromwich in our 4-4 draw."

But it was the goal scored by Carter the following Saturday as

"Miller came back and I rounded him again. I beat three more defenders then hammered the ball into the far corner of the net."

"I couldn't believe it. Everyone in the ground went wild."

Since then the Bolton fans have been comparing Carter to a young Nat Lofthouse or a budding Francis Lee. But Mike is sensible enough to realise that there are many hurdles to cross before he reaches his ambition of being rich and famous.

"I want to improve my game," he says, "and I know that means hard work."

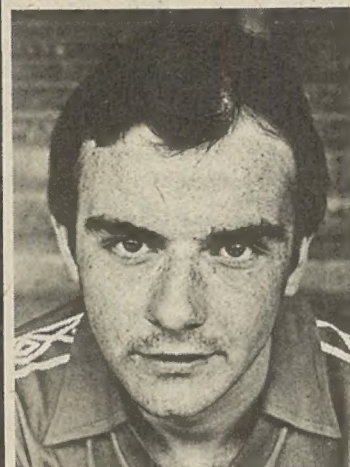
Carter arrived at Burnden Park as a 14-year-old from the Warrington Schoolboy Leagues.

Bolton's 'new' Nat Lofthouse

Bolton entertained Spurs at Burnden Park that will be talked about for years by those fortunate enough to have seen it.

"It's a pity it wasn't on TV," says Mike, "because it's the best I'll ever score."

Carter's wonder goal came from a pass from Peter Reid. "I made my way from the centre-circle and veered to the left," he says. "Paul Miller came in and I went past him, cutting in towards the edge of the box."



"Charlie Wright put me on the right track when I was 16," he says. "There were also Ian Greaves and George Mulhall. They helped me a great deal."

Carter's initial League debut came last season while on loan to Third Division Mansfield Town.

"I went for a bit of experience and played 18 times, scoring four goals," he says. "It was great at Field Mill and I really enjoyed my stay there. The experience was invaluable."

"Taking players on, shooting, speed and pace are my main strengths. They tell me at Burnden that I've got a good shot and I should use it more often."

"I'm just enjoying my football. I didn't find any pressure playing in the First Division. When I first came in to the team we were really struggling and it was a bad time, but we staged a mini-revival in our unsuccessful bid to escape relegation and I found it better."

"I don't know whether or not we can bounce straight back into the First Division; not many teams manage that feat. Nevertheless, we'll be battling."

Mike Carter (left) has already won comparisons with the great Bolton striker Nat Lofthouse (below).



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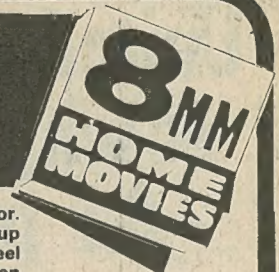
WOLVES' CUP



1980 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Wolves 1, N. Forest 0

- 1979 F.A. CUP FINAL
Arsenal v. Man. Utd.
1979 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Nott'ham F. v. Southampton
1978 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Liverpool v. Bruges
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Nottingham Forest v. Liverpool
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ALAN Curtis, the most expensive signing in Welsh football history when he cost Leeds United £375,000, says: "I feel as excited about the season ahead as I did when I signed from Swansea City a year ago — because I don't really feel that I've started in the First Division."

Curtis, whose transfer fee was also a Third Division record when he moved from Swansea, took a while to settle to the higher standards of First Division football. And just when the goals were coming and his close control at high pace was starting to cut open defences, he sustained the injury players dread — torn knee ligaments.

"We were playing Nottingham Forest at the start of the year when I chased after a loose ball. I didn't see Peter Shilton coming out and, believe me, when you run into him it's like going into a brick wall."

"Our collision was completely accidental and I remember being

Curtis is tackled by Nottingham Forest's Viv Anderson before the collision with Peter Shilton which ruled the Leeds striker out for eight months.

Curtis hasn't started yet

relieved afterwards that I hadn't broken a leg. I said as much to the doctor and he replied 'You would have been far better off. We could have set the bone and it would have healed far faster. Now you could be out for a year!'

"That was a dreadful blow. Stepping up two Divisions, moving home and family across the country, getting to know new players, adjusting to the speed and skill of the First Division . . . it was a lot to sort out.

'Problems'

"At the time of that accident, I had just started a new phase in my career and felt that all the problems were behind me. I was really enjoying life at the top and Leeds were on an unbeaten run. Then came the last thing in the world I wanted."

That is why the incisive Wales striker is back at Elland Road eagerly waiting to try his luck again. "I'm particularly looking forward to working with Derek Parlane, another striker. I'm sure that we can go well together."

"When I started at Leeds, I was in partnership with Ray Hankin; then he moved on and Jimmy Adamson signed Derek. I'm certain that our styles will blend effectively and I'm anxious to start scoring again."

"I've discovered the First Division is far quicker than the Third and Fourth Division game I'd known at Swansea. You also have to be much sharper in mind and deed. Although this new season is

very much like starting all over again, at least this time I know what to expect."

Curtis is convinced that he has beaten the first diagnosis that he could miss a year. "Once my leg was out of plaster following the operation that tied the ligaments back together, I started work to make good the muscle wastage. I was determined not to take a back seat for all those months."

"In the last week of the season, I was joining in with the reserves at Elland Road and then I went home to the Rhondda with instructions to run up and down the hillsides."

"Things went so well that I started to look for something extra. I knew that my basic standard of fitness was back and I was feeling so good that I could

run forever. I said to my Dad 'I only wish that there were some five-a-sides that I could join in. I need to start twisting, turning and using little bursts of pace.'

"Dad repeated that remark around the streets and, before I knew where I was, dozens of local players were knocking at the front door offering their services!"

"That's the kind of marvellous community spirit of everyone helping everyone that we have in the Rhondda. Before long, youngsters and even their fathers were setting up five-a-side games on the best local park pitches. It was just what I needed."

"No one drove into me. They just kept me running, playing one and two touch moves and providing me with just the kind of

work-out that I needed to make me quick on my feet."

Curtis, in the famous traditions of the Rhondda, is something of a fighter himself. In his final season at Swansea, he fought back from a pelvic strain and says now: "Surely I've had my share. In consecutive seasons, I've experienced two of the worst injuries in the game."

"When you are on the sidelines for a long time, you tend to get depressed and give up hope."

"I've learnt not to sit back and feel sorry for myself and there is so much ahead now: Leeds confident of a good campaign in the First Division and Wales going for a place in the World Cup Finals. I aim to be there for both club and country!"



SHOOT! view!

STEVE Archibald thrusts his wiry frame into the First Division limelight for the first time next month when he makes his debut for Tottenham.

It marks the start of what promises to be a glittering new career for the 23-year-old striker signed from Aberdeen for £800,000.

One can only pray for his sake that he maintains the form which drove anxiety into most Scottish Premier Division defences last season.

Anything less than that is guaranteed to incur the wrath of the "boo boys" at White Hart Lane, who number among the most intolerant football supporters in the world.

Their record suggests they will demand goals from the Scottish international from the moment the season opens. Anything less than a Greaves-like ability to finish off the artistic approach work of Ardiles and Hoddle is guaranteed to have them seeking his scalp.

Perhaps it is timely to remind less patient Spurs fans that Steve Archibald should be given time to settle.

It is true that he cost almost £1 million, but that is no reason to insist on instant miracles from Tottenham's new recruit.

It should be remembered that the former Pittodrie favourite was earning only £6.50 a week playing for Clyde three years ago.

He still drives a seven-year-old Ford Cortina and remains refreshingly level-headed for one who has risen so quickly from the purple heather to the bright lights of the capital.

The transition from spearheading an attack against Scottish League defences of mixed ability to the powerful rearguards of the English League will be heavily demanding. There have been many instances of fresh faced young Scots with high hopes of making the grade in England only to return home bitterly disillusioned.

Eamonn Bannon, ex-Chelsea, was one. Others were Joe Harper, ex-Everton; Alfie Conn, ex-Spurs; Jim Bone, ex-Norwich; Colin Stein, ex-Coventry; Frank McGarvey, ex-Liverpool. All have tried to forget nightmare experiences in the English League.

It is important, therefore, that Steve Archibald is given every encouragement by Tottenham's notoriously critical and fickle fans.

They never extended that common courtesy to Colin Lee, who was so fed-up with the treatment meted out that he had no hesitation in joining Chelsea.

London-born John Pratt played more than 300 League games for Spurs without ever receiving the support from the terraces his selfless running and loyalty merited.

Perhaps the "nasties" at White Hart Lane can demonstrate a new spirit by getting behind Archibald. They should remember that abuse from the terraces is as much a handicap to a player as a sprained ankle.

Steve Archibald deserves better than that as he strives to reward Tottenham for their belief in his ability to help take them back to the top.

Terry Cochrane can go

MIDDLESBROUGH announced Terry Cochrane was available for transfer when the Northern Ireland international winger was 12,000 miles away in Australia. But it was made with the full agreement of the former Burnley forward.

A club statement said: "Cochrane has intimated to manager John Neal that his wife cannot settle in the area. This is the only reason for deciding to accept offers."

Middlesbrough paid a total of £238,000 two seasons ago to introduce Cochrane to the First Division.

Cochrane played his part in Northern Ireland winning the British Championships, scoring a vital goal as substitute against England at Wembley.

He flew to Japan, where he helped his club win a six-team tournament, then joined the Irish squad for their Australian tour.

ARSENAL and Northern Ireland stars Pat Jennings and Sammy Nelson were among top sporting and entertainment personalities whose presence boosted the attendance at a Garden Fete in aid of Combat Cancer, in 'keeper Jennings' home town of Newry, Co. Down.

NON-SMOKERS

ONE of the last duties of Pat Stanton, who has resigned as assistant manager of Aberdeen, was to receive a certificate on behalf of the club from the Scottish Committee for Action on Smoking and Health. As well as being Scottish Premier League champions, the Pittodrie side are all non-smokers.

Painter John

FORMER Preston and Newcastle centre-half John Bird, now with Hartlepool, has developed a profitable new career — as an artist. He has opened two art shops in the North-East and so far has sold around 150 of his paintings. Many of the pictures have been sold in Norway, where they fetch around £200 a time. John paints at least two pictures a week — starting them before training and finishing them at night.

Page fights for place

MALCOLM Page, who is now the longest serving player at Birmingham City, is looking forward to the new season with high hopes of winning a regular place in the First Division team's line-up.

Page missed the last few months of the last campaign because of a troublesome injury.

This was a big disappointment for the Welsh international defender, who could have played a big part in Birmingham's promotion push.

He said: "Obviously I want to get back into the first team as quickly as possible. I'm now coming to the closing stages of my playing career and it would be good to play again in the First Division."

Page, however, faces stiff competition from the likes of Colin Todd, Mark Dennis and Kevin Broadhurst.



LINCOLN City striker Craig Ramsay made such an impact in his first season that manager Colin Murphy has tipped-off Scotland Under-18 Professional Youth squad boss Andy Roxburgh about his potential.

Murphy spotted him when he played for a Gibraltar XI against City in a pre-season friendly last year. Now, Roxburgh has asked Craig to join the squad in coaching sessions.

THE North-East has achieved a remarkable record in the last 20 years. An area noted as a football nursery has produced three F.A. Cup Final referees.

Kevin Howley, Pat Partridge and George Courtney have all gained the top honour.



McQuade helps Bermuda

FORMER Partick Thistle and Hearts winger Dennis McQuade is currently enjoying some sunshine soccer in Bermuda.

Twenty-nine-year-old McQuade left Scotland a few months ago, to take up a new job as a sales consultant on the island.

He had no intention of playing football, but was persuaded to sign for Bermudan First Division Champions Hotels International.

His last Scottish club, Hamilton, agreed to the signing, but have retained his registration so he can play for them if he returns home.

Said McQuade: "Football in Bermuda is played on an amateur basis, but with professional attitudes. I've already been on tour with my new Hotels mates to Acapulco and New Orleans and I was impressed with the standard of play."

McQuade, a highly unorthodox player, is best remembered for his part in the 1971 League Cup Final when Partick Thistle scored a shock 4-1 victory over Celtic.

Safety first Luton

LUTON Town are spending £350,000 on ground improvements to bring Kenilworth Road up to the required safety levels for next season.

The capacity of the stadium will be reduced to 21,000 and the work — including an overhead walkway for visiting fans — will cost about £350,000.

The club is expecting a grant of about £150,000 from the Football Grounds Improvement Trust.

MIKE Bennett, a 17-year-old left-back or midfield player is expected to be a key figure in Bolton's future. He signed professional in January, and held the substitute's position against Manchester City two months later.

He played for his town and county teams as a schoolboy and was also in a final trial for England at that level. He has since made the England Youth team.

JET FANS

EVERY weekend during the season thousands of Irish followers make the short journey from Dublin to Liverpool by boat to see League games in Liverpool and Manchester. Next season B + I are introducing their new Jetfoil which will take only three hours to cross the Irish sea. And that will mean that Irish fans can leave Dublin at seven on Saturday morning and be back home before midnight!

YESTERDAY'S HERO COMPETITION

IN issue dated 5th April we offered readers a chance to win the 'Yesterday's Hero' album simply by answering three questions about the film. The correct answers are: 1 Ian McShane, 2 Frank McLintock, 3 Adam Faith. The first 25 correct entries checked were sent by:

Clive Baldwin, Sevenoaks. Iain Campbell, Dumbarton. Michael Causton, Gloucester. Jamie Cheung, London. Julie Clements, Diss. P. Cook, Welwyn Garden City. Sandra Cook, Blackpool. Tracy Gratton, Blackpool. Peter Higgins, Fareham. Stephen Hooker, West Wickham. Melfyn Hopkins, Cardiff. Rosemary Horne, Fort William. Ann James, Brecon. Andrew Jarvie, East Kilbride. Stephen Keegan, Middlesbrough. Gerard McDaid, Strabane. D. MacNair, Orkney. James Phelan, Clayton. David Robinson, Chesterfield. Brett Spencer, Ilford. R. Steele, Anglesey. A. M. Stokes, Bondleigh. Angela Tilley, Skelton. Noel White, Slough. Kevin Worgan, Swindon.

PORTSMOUTH club officials were upset that the players did not receive any official recognition for winning promotion last season. So the club presented all their players with a tankard recording their achievement at a summer dinner.



Amy steals dad's day

Jill McDonagh is a staunch family man, so when Gordon Lee invited him to sign for Everton, the former Bolton goalkeeper thought nothing of taking wife, Sue, and two year old daughter Amy to the transfer ceremony. Amy even added fun to the proceedings by grabbing an Everton supporters' hat and scarf to the amusement of the Goodison staff.



WALSALL'S young goalkeeping prospect Martin Conneally will always be grateful for the help he has received from Mick Kearns, the Wolves and Eire international 'keeper.

Kearns, who was with Walsall before joining Wolves last July, helped the Lichfield youngster from the time he first joined the Fellows Park staff in May, 1977.

Briefly...

WHICH team took the biggest away support to Anfield last season barring neighbours Everton? The answer is Grimsby Town. The Mariners had 18,000 fans cheering them on in their F.A. Cup tie — and Liverpool police told club officials that there were more coaches from the Lincolnshire town than ever before seen on Merseyside.

ADRIAN Welsh, the ball juggling expert from Galway, leaves next month for a three week tour of the U.S. He will pass on tips to the American kids and promote a new bag which he designed himself. Adrian's first stop is Dallas

where he is hoping to meet the famous JR!

EOIN Hand's first job as Manager of the Republic of Ireland was to fly to Italy to watch his World Cup opponents Belgium and Holland in action in the European Championship. When the pairings were first announced Holland and France were the favourites to qualify from Eire's group, but following Belgium's excellent form the task ahead of Hand's men now seems that bit tougher.

FRANKIE Bunn, former West Midlands schoolboy, has been signed as a full professional by Luton Town after just one year as an apprentice.

GARY Gillespie, Coventry's highly-talented young defender, won a Talbot car as his prize for being voted the club's Player of the Year.

THE 27 Scottish clubs who plan to run a reserve side next season may do so on a regional East and West basis to ensure a continuity of fixtures. As well as rectifying the haphazard arrangement which existed last season it could also save the clubs money by reducing the amount of travelling.

An advert at the Highfield Road ground proclaimed: "Gary Gillespie drives a Talbot." Trouble is... Gary has not yet passed his driving test!

A SOCCER sponsorship deal was completed halfway between England and France. Townsend Thoresen signed a two-year contract with Southern League Dover FC on-board a car ferry as she sailed between Dover and Calais. The world's largest free enterprise car ferry company, will be featured on the football club's shirts, as well as on club vehicles.

JIGSAW puzzle from World International Publishing shows Ron Greenwood's England squad in the new strip they wore for the European Nations Cup Finals. The puzzle has 400 pieces and has been produced on thick, top-quality board, priced £1.75 (inc VAT).

Van Gool's goal

IN view of the glut of talent Coventry City currently possess the Belgian international Roger Van Gool had to fight hard to keep his place in the Sky Blues line-up last season.

He said: "Coventry are a very good club in every respect. I've enjoyed the experience here and now I hope that the club can win some honours."

Duncan going home?

DUNDEE United failed in a bid to sign Derby's former Tottenham striker John Duncan last season. But expect them to make another move early in the new season — especially if he proves he is fully recovered from an achilles tendon injury.

HULL City's Bruce Bannister got more than he bargained for the day he had a heading duel with two England players...

For the players he met at Boothferry Park were past and present stars of the England WOMEN'S team.

On the left of the picture is Carol Thomas, present captain of the England side, and on the right is Ethel Hattersley, who played against France in the pioneering days of women's soccer in the 1930's.

Recalling the early days of women's soccer, Ethel said: "It was frowned upon by most people but, fortunately, my parents were enlightened people and let me play."

Said Ethel: "There were many obstacles in our way those days — not least the heavy leather ball and our long shorts and big boots. But we beat France and enjoyed ourselves. And I like to think that we proved women are capable of playing most games."

Final word from Bruce Bannister: "Meeting Carol and Ethel certainly makes a nice change from tangling with Third Division defences."

TIP FOR THE TOP

HUDDERSFIELD boss Mick Buxton was a certainty to win the Fourth Division's Manager of the Year award — according to his players. Striker Steve Kindon, the former Burnley and Wolves star, says: "Mick has the qualities to go right to the very top. He always understands the player's point of view."

Kindon, who played under Harry Potts and Jimmy Adamson at Burnley and Bill McGarry and Sammy Chung at Wolves, added: "Huddersfield were never out of the promotion race and scored over 100 goals. Mick just had to win the award."

JACKSON'S DISCIPLINE



THE League of Ireland did well financially out of their recent tour of Argentina. And they were not disgraced on the pitch — losing just 1-0 to the full Argentinian side in The River Plate Stadium. But one sour note to emerge from the tour was the manner in which stand-in manager Tommy Jackson (above) treated the players.

The Waterford boss was a late replacement for the indisposed Jim McLaughlin and he seemed hell bent on impressing somebody, but whoever it was the players didn't like it one bit.

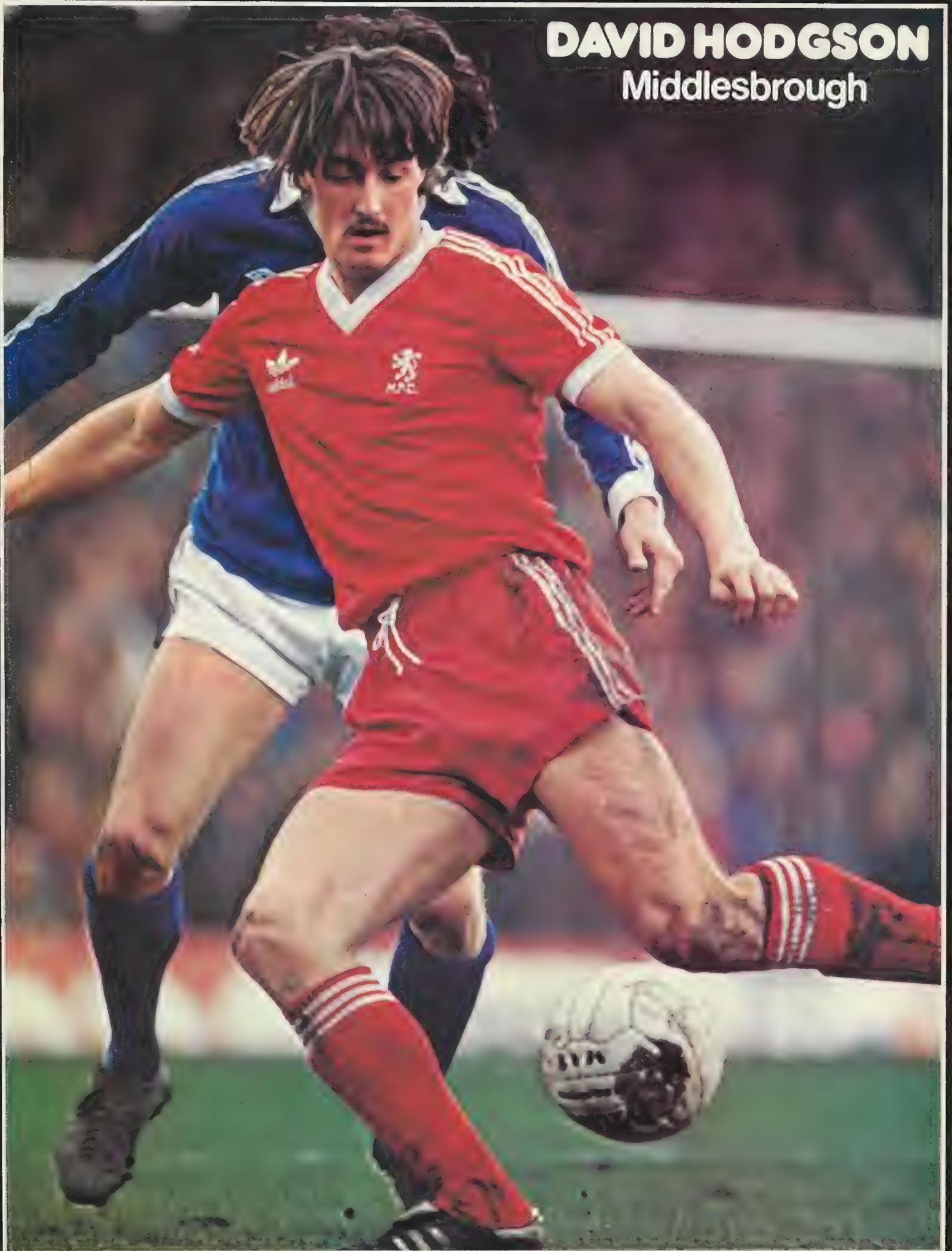
Jackson had the Eire part-timers out training on the River Plate Stadium the morning after they arrived in Buenos Aires and wanted them to do 140 sit-ups for openers! And the norm was an 8.30 alarm call for training at ten. A bit much for the part-timers, who had been through a long season back home.

**SANDY
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SHOOT!

DAVID HODGSON
Middlesbrough



SHOOT!

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COLIN Addison felt like a surgeon when he walked through the doors of the Baseball Ground to become Derby County's new manager last summer.

A club that had been allowed to run down in an alarming way was in a serious condition and a major operation was needed to get it back on its feet.

Now, just over 12 months later, 'Dr. Addison' is able to report that the 'patient' is well on the way to making a full recovery — although it will have to recuperate in less exalted surroundings than it has been used to.

Derby — torn apart by a mass movement of players, managerial and board upheaval and a police inquiry — were in a terrible state when Addison quit as second in command at West Bromwich Albion to take on one of the most difficult jobs in football.

Even before a ball had been kicked The Rams were everyone's favourites to be led to the slaughter of relegation. And the pundits were proved right.

Derby went the way predicted for them. But they refused to go quietly and put up a fight that suggested they will not dwell in the Second Division for too long.

Addison and John Newman — the assistant he recruited from Grimsby — set about their



'Dr. ADDISON'

CURING DERBY'S ILLS

thankless task in such a vigorous manner that the team that ended the season was unrecognisable from the one that started it in such doom-laden fashion.

Addison had enough problems to contend with, without the dreaded injury bug adding to them.

But that struck as well — leaving him without Roy McFarland and Steve Powell, two of his best and most experienced players, for much of the season.

And Republic of Ireland midfielder man Gerry Daly returned from a summer in America with a niggling injury that meant Derby did not really get the best out of him.

Addison knew what had to be done and did not flinch from doing it. Using his scalpel almost brutally he cut the heart out of the team and transplanted new blood like Alan Biley — from Cambridge at a club record fee of £450,000 — strike partner Dave Swindlehurst, from Crystal Palace, Keith Osgood and Barry Powell, from Coventry and Steve Emery, from Hereford.

It was inevitable the wounds inflicted earlier

would take time to heal and by the time they did Derby's dreams of preserving their First Division status had perished.

"If the season had lasted another three or four weeks I'm convinced we would have sneaked out of trouble," said Addison.

'Difficult'

"However, we are not complaining. We had too much to do and not enough time to do it in. Now time is on our side and we can really put our house in order.

"I knew it would be tough when I agreed to take the job. But, to be honest, I was not sure just how difficult the task was.

"From the very start it was clear that a miracle was needed to save us and by the time we knew exactly what had to be done it was already too late.

"But the signs are that we are getting things right and I think we have good reason to face the new season with quiet confidence.

"I'm not going to make any rash promises

AT the club. It was the in-thing to mock them.

One gag that did the rounds in the Midlands was of the three kinds of stock in circulation — dark brown for beef stock, light brown for chicken stock and black and white — the Derby colours — for laughing stock.

Addison has changed all that and made Derby a club to be taken seriously again.

He deserves all the success he gets — and we have a hunch there will be plenty of it in future.

Ordered your July

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- And more, much more, in brilliant colour. News and views from inside the game are the trademark of Soccer Monthly.



David Swindlehurst, a late signing from Crystal Palace, is one of the reasons for the renewed optimism currently sweeping through the Baseball Ground.

John
Balavage



ANOTHER TONGUE- TWISTER FOR LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL recently signed goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar from Crewe to challenge Ray Clemence.

The Anfield fans may have difficulty in getting their tongues round that surname and there is every possibility that their favourites could sign another tongue-twister — John Balavage, the outstanding young goalkeeper of Scottish Second Division side Albion Rovers.

Bob Paisley received good reports on Balavage last season and he could well offer a trial match before the start of the new season of the Scots starlet.

"The boy has everything a good goalkeeper should have," says Rovers Chairman Tom Fagan. "He is big, brave and agile and you should see the size of his hands . . . they are like shovels!"

"He can scoop the ball up in one hand just like Pat Jennings. We're happy to have him at Coatbridge, but we know he may be moving on. He is a marvellous prospect."

Balavage has already had a taste of the big time . . . he used to play for Billy McNeill's pub team in Bellshill!

"I doubt if Mr. McNeill knows anything about that," says the 19-year-old 'keeper. "I didn't go into the pub at the time because I was too young, but some of my mates

used to drink there and they persuaded me to play for the team. It was very enjoyable."

And what about the prospect of joining Kenny Dalglish and Company at Anfield? "I would be absolutely delighted to join Liverpool," says John. "Naturally I wouldn't expect to play in the first-team, but I would like to think the experience would do me good."

'Idols'

Balavage, over 6ft and built to match, wouldn't mind staying in Scotland, but he points out: "There is only one club I want to play for on this side of the Border and that's Celtic. They've always been my idols. They are a marvellous team."

The youngster obviously has great ambition and Chairman Fagan says: "He could become the best Scottish goalkeeper since Spurs' Bill Brown."

That's praise indeed although, youngsters today may not readily associate the name Bill Brown with the likes of Lev Yashin or Gordon Banks. However, the great Spurs side of the early Sixties depended a lot on Brown and there is no doubt that Balavage is being developed along the same lines.

He is known to his mates as 'Sweeper' because of the way he

acts as an extra defender at the back and runs out of his penalty area to deal with danger.

"Actually I wouldn't mind playing outfield," he says. "Centre-forward seems a good position. I wouldn't mind putting other goalkeepers under pressure just for a change!"

Balavage may be a rough diamond at the moment, but he will find polish in his performances over the coming years and there is every possibility that he could emulate Bill Brown and represent his country.

The 'keeper, in fact, has already played for his country . . . at volleyball against England at Under-16 level. Now he can dream of facing England again — this time at Hampden or Wembley.

SCOTLAND'S SHOCK SIDE

EAST Stirlingshire were the real surprise package last season in the Scottish Second Division.

Shire had a poor 1978-79, finishing well down the League, and the immediate future did not look too bright when manager Billy Lamont signed practically a whole new team for the current season.

Lamont, the former Hamilton Accies 'keeper, put his faith mainly in youngsters from the junior grade — and it has paid off better than even he could have hoped.

Shire led the race for promotion to the First Division for much of the season and finished as runners-up to Champions' Falkirk. Now the signs are that next term they will be in the competition for a place in the prestigious Premier League.

Lamont's youngsters have been an instant hit in the senior grade and this has brought the inevitable posse of scouts to Firs Park to eye the talent.

Rangers have been watching teenage centre-half Ian Rennie, who had trials with Celtic before joining Shire, and 'keeper Charlie Kelly is interesting several clubs.

"Things are going very well for us," said the Shire boss. "I don't see any reason why we can't achieve promotion if we continue to keep up our present run."

"However, no one here is counting chickens. We know we will only get into the Premier Division with hard work. We cannot afford to let up."

One worry for the Shire boss is the team's home form. The team's performances have, on the whole, been poor in front of their own fans. But in away games, they are practically unbeatable.



Manager Billy Lamont

"It is puzzling why we don't play as well at home as we do away," said Lamont. "I've tried to do something about this, even to the point of using our away tactics in home games. However, nothing seems to work."

"We certainly get more room to play away from home and that suits our style. Nevertheless you must really aim to win home games if you are serious about promotion."

"Hopefully things will improve in home matches now we have



Long-serving defender Gordon Simpson (hoops) helps East Stirling to beat rivals Falkirk.

achieved our goal of First Division football at Firs Park."

Interestingly, one of the key players in Shire's promotion bid is the manager's son, midfielder man Paul Lamont. He joined the club as a stop-gap measure last year after returning homesick from Everton.

His father kept him on last season and he repaid him by scoring some vital goals. He got both goals in a vital local "derby" with Falkirk to give the team both points and

ensure that Shire continued to challenge their more famous town rivals in the promotion stakes.

Another key man in the Firs Park set-up is defender Gordon Simpson who is celebrating ten years with the club. He has been awarded a testimonial match for outstanding service.

His ambition has always been to see Shire in the First Division and now it has been realised in his testimonial year.



Tartan Talk
DEREK
JOHNSTONE

'Rangers Bett on Jim'

came so close to winning the Red Leaf Tournament which had been put together by the Canadian F.A. We met Italian side Ascoli in the Final and unfortunately we lost 2-0.

ABERDEEN have a piece of property that belongs to Rangers and we hope to reclaim it in the new season.

I'm talking, of course, about the Premier Division Championship and everyone at Rangers regards it as our rightful property.

We have had it here at Ibrox so many times in the past that we feel it belongs with us.

The Dons can keep it polished for a year, but they can forget all about keeping it for another season.

Don't get me wrong. I respect The Dons and their manager Alex Ferguson, a former Ranger, but I am confident that Rangers can make up for the bitter disappointment of last season when we won nothing.

Cup successes will be happily accepted, of course, but I would certainly forget those one-off tournaments to get my hands on that title again.

We are out of Europe and we will have no distractions. We take off our League season against newly-promoted Airdrie at Ibrox on August 9 and we aim to start with a bang.

The best of luck to the part-time

Broomfield outfit and their manager Bobby Watson — another former Ranger — but I hope we take them apart and score a barrel load.

Actually, I know one of our players can't wait to play against Airdrie — and that is Jim Bett, our £170,000 buy from Belgian side SK Lokeren.

Dedicated

Jim tells me he had a short spell with the Broomfield side before going to Iceland and then on to Belgium. He's been around a bit, but, believe it or not, he is still only 20!

Fans have been asking me what they can expect from Jim in the new season as they haven't yet had a chance to watch him in action.

I can only tell them they will see a player who is totally dedicated to Rangers.

He has always wanted to play

for us and now John Greig has given him his platform. Jim plays in the middle of the park and has a bit of a reputation as a ballwinner.

I'm told his former club SK Lokeren used to have him as a marker whenever they played the likes of Anderlecht.

Jim would pick up Arie Haan and the Dutch World Cup star would immediately fade from the picture.

He might be asked to do a similar role at Ibrox, but I think the gaffer, Mr Greig, will probably ask him to be a bit more positive. Rangers' game is to be constructive rather than destructive.

I think you will see Rangers at their best this season. We've had that short tour of Canada and we

It was a terrible day for football and the heat really got to our players. It must have been about 90 degrees and I felt I was suffocating out on the pitch.

At the end of the game hardly any of our lads could walk because of blisters. However, I suppose it was all good experience.

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



Jim Bett has learnt his trade abroad with SK Lokeren in Belgium, and now Rangers are hoping he can turn it on in his native country next season.

NOBBY

WE WON'T BE SEEING MUCH MORE OF OUR STRIKER



526

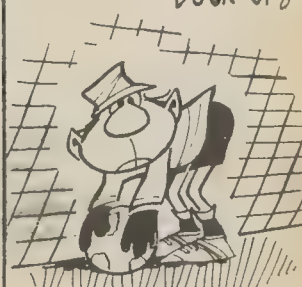
HE'S TRYING HIS LUCK ON THE CONTINENT NEXT SEASON



THAT'S A COINCIDENCE, OUR GOALIE COULD BE GOING ABROAD AS WELL



THEY'RE SENDING HIM TO SIBERIA IF HE DOESN'T BUCK UP!



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



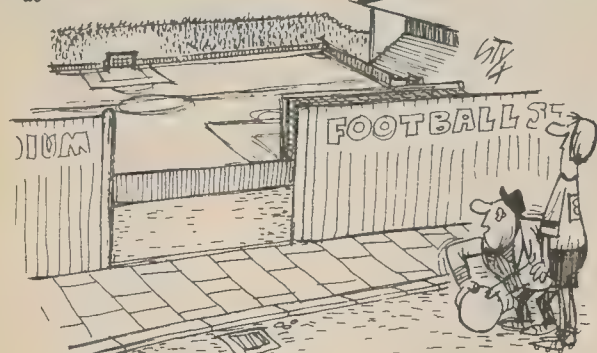
"They're arguing about your transfer fee — want it reduced by 50p?"



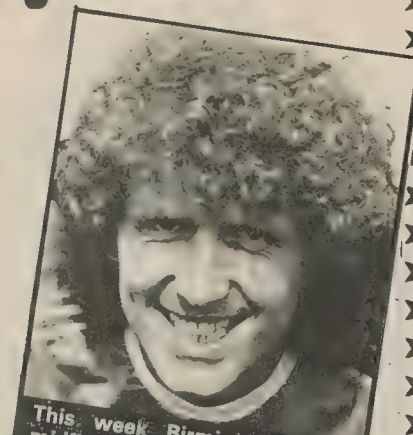
"You could have saved that penalty — why the heck did you duck?"



"Fascinating team — when you expect 'em to win they lose, and when you expect 'em to lose — they do"



"Now I want to test your quality with a long range shot"



This week Birmingham City midfield player Tony Towers selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.

"Over 15 years as a ref and never have I seen such a diabolical tackle"



"Oh dear! You have a rather unfortunate name haven't you?"

IT'S tough at the top — but it's also terrific. I've now completed ten seasons as a regular in the Liverpool first team, and to show for it I have a trophy case with more honours than I ever dreamed I'd collect in my career — and it's not over yet.

Behind me there are ten glorious seasons, seasons in which I've touched the heights of club football with the Super Reds of Anfield.

I'm proud to be part of a set-up that has the distinction of having achieved more honours than any other in British football: 12 League Championships, a record; two European Cups, two UEFA Cups; the Super Cup and two F.A. Cups.

And the majority of them have come in my 10-year term as a regular in the side.

Stay with me while I run through my life with Liverpool from the time I made the number one shirt my own.

1970-71. This marked not only the beginning of a decade, but the break-up of the side that put Liverpool on the map in the 60's. Only Ian Callaghan, "The Ageless Veteran" as we called him, remained. Considering our youth and inexperience, we did well to reach the F.A. Cup Final. Unfortunately, we failed to touch our usual form, and lost 2-1 to Arsenal after extra-time.

It was the only time in the whole season we'd lost after going a goal in front.

One thing I was especially proud of was that we managed to finish with the least number of goals conceded — 24 — which constituted a First Division record at that time.

In the Fairs Cup competition — now the UEFA — we beat Ferencvaros, Dynamo Bucharest, Hibernian, and Bayern Munich before losing 1-0 on aggregate in the Semi-Final to Leeds United, our biggest rivals on the home front.

1971-72. A disappointing season, without a single honour coming Anfield's way. As Arsenal, double-winners the previous season, competed in the European Cup, we replaced them in the Cup-Winners', but went out in the Second Round to Bayern Munich.

We missed out on the Championship at the very last stage of the season. In our final game, against Arsenal at Highbury, we needed to win, but only succeeded in drawing 0-0 after having a goal disallowed.

Crashed

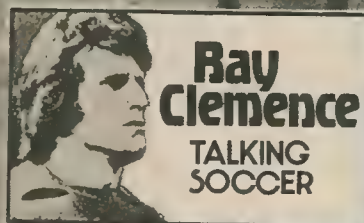
Leeds United, one of our rivals in the "three-horse race", amazingly crashed to Wolves at Molineux, so the trophy went to Derby, who had completed their programme and were holidaying in Spain.

My only personal bright spot was making my debut for England.

1972-73. This was the season where the 70's side began to come into its own, silencing those critics who said we'd never rank comparison with the team of the 60's.

We ended the season in real style, achieving the first-ever double of Championship and UEFA Cup.

I was particularly proud of the part I played in our European victory, for by saving a penalty against Borussia Monchengladbach in the first-leg of the Final at Anfield, keeping the score at 3-0, I pre-



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

vented the Germans from winning on the away goals rule, for they managed to beat us 2-0 in the return.

1973-74. The season we discovered how difficult it is to defend the Championship. Every team we played in the League seemed to treat the game as a Cup-tie. But at least we succeeded in finishing runners-up to Leeds.

Red Star Belgrade, then a real force in Europe, knocked us out of the European Cup, by winning 2-1 in each leg.

Consolation came for us in the shape of the F.A. Cup, which we won convincingly by beating Newcastle United 3-0. Kevin Keegan scored twice in a tremendous display, running the Newcastle defence ragged.

1974-75. My most disappointing

'TEN GLORIOUS YEARS'

season for several reasons. The man who brought me to Anfield — Bill Shankly — decided to resign the managership and no persuasion on anyone's part could change his mind. However, the club made the wise move in promoting Bob Paisley, a playing stalwart of the 50's with a marvellous talent for treating injuries.

Our dream of retaining the F.A. Cup was wrecked by Ipswich Town in the Fourth Round, we went out of the Cup-Winners' Cup early on to Ferencvaros, and finished runners-up in the League.

As there isn't an award of any sort for gaining second spot — a sad omission which should be rectified — I have no mementoes of that season.

1975-76. "Back in the old routine" is the phrase that sums up this season when Bob Paisley, showing the world he was a worthy successor to Shanks, steered us to another double of Championship and UEFA Cup.

In the first-leg of the UEFA Final, at Anfield, Bruges actually put two goals past me in the first-half with no reply. But in one of the greatest fightbacks staged by Liverpool, we scored three goals to send us to Belgium with a one-goal lead.

'Liverpool were the first British club to win two consecutive European Cup Finals'

In Bruges we went one-down from a disputed penalty, but Kevin equalised and the final score of 1-1 gave us a win on aggregate.

1976-77. The season of the "impossible dream" when the treble of Championship, F.A. Cup and European Cup could have become a reality.

But in the Wembley Final against Manchester United I was to blame for letting in their first goal, by Stuart Pearson, going down too late to his shot.

Four days later, in Rome for the European Final against Borussia Monchengladbach, I redeemed myself with what I regard as two of my best saves.

It was an indescribable feeling holding in my hand the winner's medal, with the inscription: "Coup des Clubs Champions Européens".

Unique

At last Liverpool had won the Continent's most prestigious, coveted trophy — and I was one of that history-making team.

1977-78. For a second season we won the European Cup — a feat then unique in British football. This time it was without the services of Kevin Keegan, but Kenny Dalglish — scorer of the vital goal against Bruges in the European Cup at Wembley — proved a superb replacement.

For the first time we competed for the Super Cup, and by coincidence played Kevin's team, first in Hamburg, where we drew 2-2, and then at Anfield where we won 6-0.

Nottingham Forest pipped us to both the Championship and the League Cup, winning that elusive trophy from a disputed penalty in the replay at Old Trafford.

The penalty-converter was John Robertson, who has certainly had the best of our encounters.

1978-79. Our bid to emulate the

likes of Real Madrid and Bayern Munich with a hat-trick of European Cup wins was squashed by Forest who dismissed us in the very First Round.

We reached the Semi-Final of the F.A. Cup, only to be halted one step from Wembley by a Jimmy Greenhoff goal I couldn't keep out.

However, we regained the Championship from Forest by assembling a record number of points and at the same time conceding only 16 goals, a new record.

1979-80. Although we deservedly went out of the European Cup to Russian side Dynamo Tbilisi, we reached the Semi-Finals of both the League Cup and the F.A. Cup.

Then our Cup luck deserted us once again. Two penalty conversions from John Robertson — that man again! — dismissed us from the League Cup; and Arsenal, after an incredible series of replays, got the goal that wiped out our vision of Wembley.

Liverpool collected the Championship for a record 12th time. A bonus for me was picking up my fifth medal, which puts me on equal terms with Ian Callaghan in this respect.

Now we're looking forward to next season, our sights set on every available trophy. Perhaps we'll again be presented with the chance to do an "impossible" treble!

Ray Clemence



Forest's John Robertson scores the winning goal at Anfield.

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Winning brothers

Is it true that Bobby and Jack Charlton are the only brothers to play together in a World Cup Final winning team?

**ANTHONY DAY,
CAMBERLEY**

● No, Anthony, the Charlton family feat against West Germany in 1966 only equalled a similar instance by their opponents 12 years earlier.

For fellow attackers in the West German side which beat Hungary in the 1954 Final were brothers Fritz and Ottmar Walter.

Pele's 1,000th

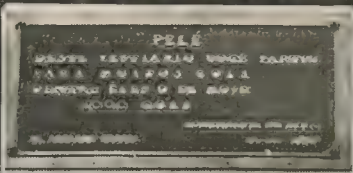
When, where, and for whom, did the great Pele score his 1,000th goal in first-class matches?

**MICKY EMMYBAERI,
NIGERIA**

● It came on 19th November, 1969, Micky, when Pele successfully slotted home a penalty for Santos v. Vasco de Gama in Rio de Janeiro's famous Maracana Stadium.

Goal number 1,000 came in the 78th minute of that game — and, after excited Brazilian fans had swarmed on

to the pitch to mob their hero, you can imagine the ref had quite a job getting the remaining 12 minutes played!



Pele's 1,000-goal milestone. A plaque commemorates the feat at the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro.

England Peacock

A teacher at my school used to teach Alan Peacock. Could you tell me how many times he played for England, and which big clubs he was with?

**TIMOTHY WILSON,
HORSHAM**

● He played in six full internationals, Timothy — against Argentina and Bulgaria in the 1961-62 season, and against Northern Ireland and Wales in both 1962-63 and 1965-66 — scoring three goals.

Middlesbrough born, Peacock played for his home-town club before being

transferred to Leeds for £53,000 — quite a fair sum at the time — in 1964.

He played at centre-forward in the Leeds side which lost to Liverpool in the 1965 F.A. Cup Final — and, but for being a very unlucky player with injuries, might well have gained more honours than he did.

10-0 win

What was the England team when they beat Portugal 10-0 in Lisbon in May, 1947?

**PHILIP GOODMAN,
ADDLESTONE**

● A pretty formidable one, Philip, as the scoreline suggests. And this is how they lined-up:

Frank Swift (Manchester City); Laurie Scott (Arsenal), George Hardwick (Middlesbrough) (capt.), Billy Wright (Wolves), Neil Franklin (Stoke), Eddie Lowe (Aston Villa), Stan Matthews (Blackpool), Stan Mortensen (Blackpool), Tommy Lawton (Chelsea), Wilf Mannion (Middlesbrough), Tom Finney (Preston).

Lawton and Mortensen each got four goals — the other two coming from Finney and Matthews.

Service

Who has been on the books of the same Football League club — solely as a player — for the longest unbroken period?

**JEREMY PHILLIPS,
TEWSKESBURY**

● No doubt about that one, Jeremy. Former England goalkeeper Ted Sagar signed for Everton in March, 1928, and finally retired in May, 1953 — almost a quarter of a century's service.

His total of 465 League games — which would have been much higher if War-time games could be counted — is still an Everton club-record.

SHORT PASSES

● After playing 194 League games for West Ham, goalkeeper Mervyn Day was transferred to Orient on 23rd July, 1979.

(**SERGIO KNEZEVIC, Australia**)

● Celtic's 2-1 European Cup Final victory over Inter-Milan on 25th May, 1967 was played in Lisbon; the gate was 45,000.

(**IRON RODGER, Fiji**)

● Emlyn Hughes' first full international was in England's 1-0 win over Holland, in Amsterdam, on 5th November, 1969.

(**BRENDAN TUMILTY, Ardossan**)

● No player has missed a penalty kick in the F.A. Cup Final since it came to Wembley in 1923.

(**JARI LEHTINEN, Finland**)

● Most League appearances for Derby is 478 by Jack Parry between 1949 and 1966.

(**RICHARD VEAL, London, N.W.7**)

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TORPEDO MOSCOW
SLAVIA PRAGUE
RAPID VIENNA
PARTIZAN BELGRADE
UJPESTI DOSZA
HAJDUK SPLIT
BRAZIL
PANATHINA IKOS

ALL FIRST DIVISION
ENGLISH TEAMS (EX EVERTON) ABERDEEN
GLASGOW RANGERS CHELSEA WEST HAM Q.P.R.
CELTIC
ENGLAND
SCOTLAND
LUTON
FULHAM
CARLISLE
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LIFE, for some clubs will never be the same again. That was the message from the Football League's annual meeting.

Loan transfers — that past lifeline for the minnow outfits — are now to be restricted to goalkeepers, thus ending the aspirations of a club like Fulham "signing" an outfield player of the calibre of Liverpool's Howard Gayle.

Hardest hit will be Third and Fourth Division clubs, who derived most benefit from the loan system, and are now presented with a number of problems that will hit some of them hard in the coming months. SHOOT spoke to such clubs, to gauge their reactions to the ruling.

"It means the end of the



Hartlepool Chairman Vincent Barker (left) helped his club to loan Middlesbrough 'keeper Jim Platt (right).

other sides that include loan players.

"One of the problems with being with a big squad has been that some players can get no first team experience.

"With freedom of contract, there is no reason why a boy should stay. His contract gives him that right.

"The goalkeeping situation is unique. Clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions don't have full-time professional reserve 'keepers. There is obviously a case for a loan player there."

'KEEPERS ALONE FOR SOCCER LOANS

system," said Wimbledon secretary Adrian Cook. "It's a blow for us as one of the less well-off clubs. Obviously, loaning players is one of the ways to strengthen a side. There is no fee involved, only wages to be paid.

"Now, we shall have to introduce young players who are not quite ready for the first team. That's not good for the game.

"Of course, youngsters who formerly went on loan will now be deprived of first-team experience.

"But it has to be said that Third and Fourth Division clubs did feel they themselves, were abusing the system. The majority of clubs took players on loan in order to win promotion and avoid relegation."

The Third and Fourth Division clubs had precisely six votes between them at the meeting, compared to the 44 of the First and Second. Hartlepool, of the Fourth, were one of the six clubs to vote. Their Chairman, Vincent Barker, said: "I voted for the new ruling. The loan system worked for some clubs and not for others — had it been fair to all, it would have done some good.



Promising young players such as Howard Gayle of Liverpool will not be allowed to gain experience with a lower League club from now on.

'Benefit'

"We had Jim Platt, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, when he was in their reserves. It benefited us both — he got straight into their first team when he back!"

Crewe, also of the Fourth Division, likewise felt the ruling a fair one. Mrs Joe Palin, club secretary, said: "It was the right decision, and correct to allow clubs to continue to loan goalkeepers. It is such a specialised position that no-one else can stand in for a 'keeper. Some clubs keep only the bare minimum in that department.

"We haven't got a 'keeper on our books at present so we may well be taking one on loan before the start of the season."

Bradford boss George Mulhall agreed. He said: "Small clubs without big staffs could

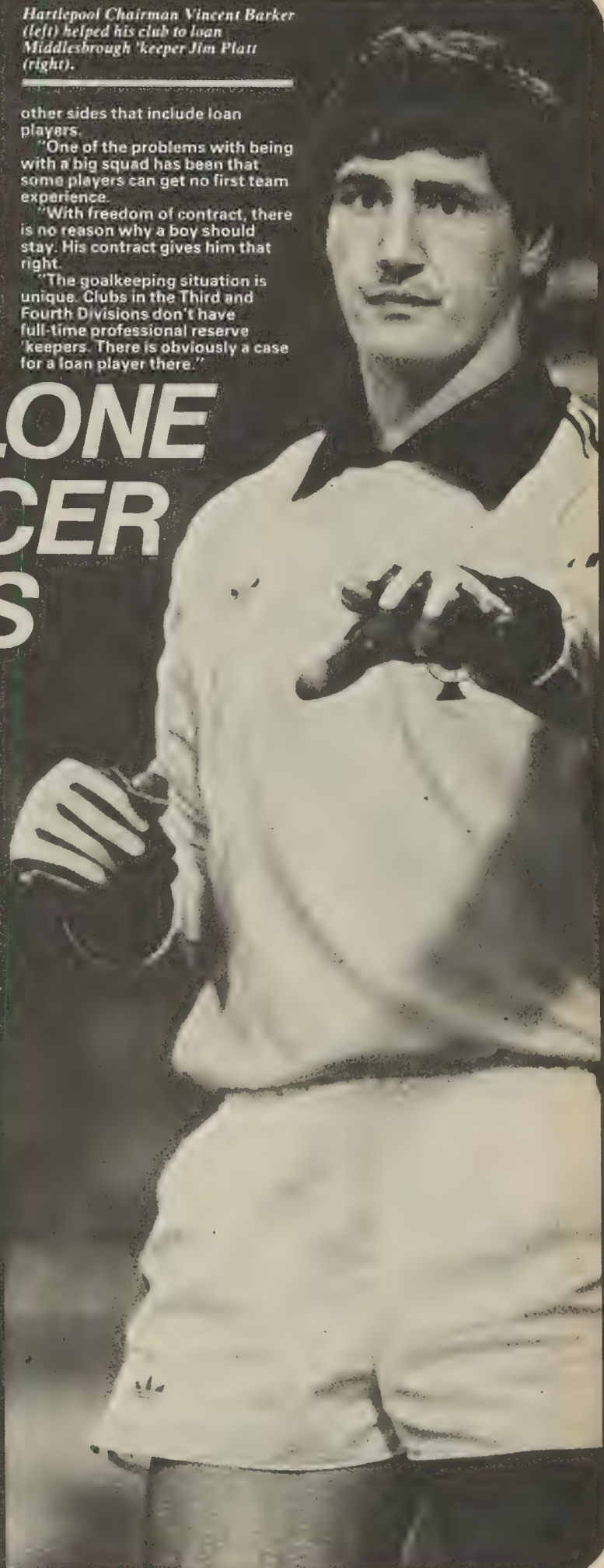
strengthen themselves. A friend could do another friend a good turn. If you've no friends, you get no loan players.

But former Rochdale manager Bob Stokoe said: "At lower level you can't afford to replace injured players immediately.

"It's never associate members who make the rules. The quality of the League will be lessened from now on."

Gordon Taylor gave the Professional Footballers Association's reaction: "The loan scheme was introduced to help small staffs with their injury problems, and to give players a chance of first-team football in the lower Divisions.

"Clubs were loaning players with no pretence to signing them. There have been complaints when teams involved in promotion or relegation issues come up against



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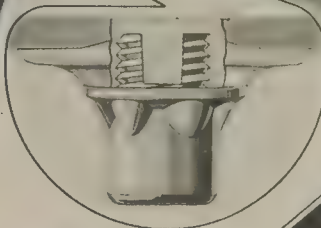
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Ian Davies aims to show his true form at St. James' Park for Newcastle in the future after a move from Norwich.

IAN Davies had never been further North than Lancashire when he heard that Newcastle United wanted to sign him last summer.

The young left-back immediately flew to the North East on a 7am flight for his first visit to the region — and liked what he saw.

Within hours, Davies had decided to drop down from the First to the Second Division and joined United in a £175,000 deal.

It was a transfer which amazed United's army of fans, since many of them had never even heard of the Bristol-born player who made 20 League appearances for Norwich after winning his place last season.

But Davies has no regrets about the move — although it hasn't always been plain sailing for him at United.

He is the first to admit that it has taken him a long time to settle

big crowd atmosphere of St James' Park was one of the reasons I decided to leave Norwich and drop into the Second Division," he said.

"Norwich never attract the same kind of crowds and publicity, so it was an exciting prospect when Newcastle came for me."

After last season's failed promotion bid, Davies's next target is to figure regularly in the thinking of new Welsh team-boss Mike

NEWCASTLE FANS SEE TWO IAN DAVIES'S

down and he still has to fully convince the demanding Newcastle fans that he's worth his £175,000 tag.

"I don't blame the fans for having their doubts because they haven't really seen me do anything at home yet," admits 22-year-old Davies.

"My confidence has suffered at St James' Park and I seem to have reserved my best performances away from home."

It's certainly true that the large number of United supporters who follow them around the country have seen a different Davies.

They have watched a player who is impressive going forward, with deceptive pace and control. And Davies is hopeful the home fans will see that sort of style in the future.

"I owe it to them because the

England.

Davies qualifies for the country because he has Welsh parenthood and he has already been a member of the Under-21 squad and was called up for the British Championship.

"What a way to end the season. I could not have grumbled if Mike England had left me out after my problems this season."

"In fact I probably played better at Norwich without getting a call up. Perhaps the fact I moved to a bigger club helped, even if they are in the Second Division. And we were in the spotlight for much of the season when we were at the top of the table."

Next season, Davies aims to retain his international place and get on with the job of showing those United fans the qualities that prompted Bill McGarry to buy him.

NEWTON'S DREAM

BOB Newton is happily spending his summer playing among the big-name internationals in Stateside soccer.

But, every time he pulls on a New England Tea Men shirt, the Hartlepool striker dreams of carrying out his trade in the First Division.

"It has always been my ambition to play top football in England, but I wonder whether I will get the chance now," says Newton.

"That's why I jumped at the opportunity to play in Boston — maybe it is the only taste of the big-time I'll get."

It has puzzled many people connected with Hartlepool that the 23-year-old striker has never been

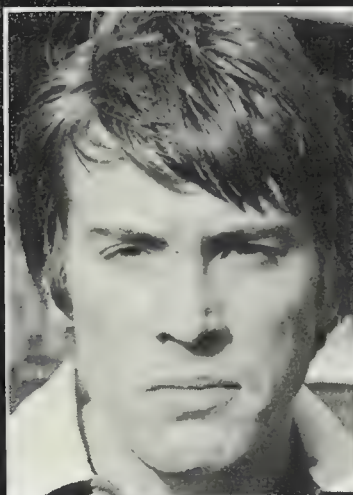
snapped up by any First or Second Division clubs.

He's a strong, hard-working player who has consistently scored goals for Hartlepool, even when the team has been struggling.

But Newton is in no doubt why he is still languishing in the lower half of the bottom Division — he's rated as bad news on the soccer grapevine.

"There's no mystery about why clubs haven't come in for me," he says. "I'm suffering because of my past and I don't know what I can do about it."

Newton is talking about the nine-month gaol sentence he served for offences related to a car



crash in which, tragically, his friend and team-mate Dave Wiggett was killed.

"It's a nightmare that will always be with me," said Newton. "Nothing can change what happened, but the tragedy did teach me a lesson."

"I look at things differently now, but I wonder if it's too late. Stories that have got around about me are ridiculous, blown out of all proportion."

"Maybe I like a laugh and joke with the lads, but that's natural. I always give 100 per cent in training and matches."

"That's what is so upsetting. There has never been any question about my attitude and I know I would score goals at a higher level. All I ask is the chance to prove it."

Noel Cantwell, manager of the Tea Men, is one man who clearly believes that Newton has got what it takes. Martin Burleigh, the Hartlepool goalkeeper who played with Newcastle, is another.

'Available'

"I know people who have moved for big money who couldn't hold a candle to Bob," says Burleigh. He's been available for £100,000 and that makes the money paid for some players a joke.

"In my view, he would not only score goals, but — because of his mobility — would be a better player in a higher Division."

Newton shrugs off the compliment. "It's nice of people to say things like that," he said. "But the only way they'll ever be proved right is if I get the chance to show what I can do. I hope somebody comes along and shows some faith in me."



It is every forward's ambition to score at least one hat-trick in his career. Some never succeed in that aim, but others seem to find three goals in a game no problem at all.

Take Southampton's deadly goal ace Phil Boyer as an example. He raced away to the First Division's goalscoring crown last season helped by no less than a hat-trick of hat-tricks.

For much of his career, Phil lived in the shadow of his illustrious striking partner Ted MacDougall, but since they parted company Boyer's career has blossomed.

The arrival of Kevin Keegan at The Dell should no doubt help Boyer to boost his goal tally even further in the new season.

Sure to be pushing Boyer hard for the title of leading marksman once again will be Liverpool's David Johnson, whose career has

been rejuvenated at Anfield in recent months.

Like Boyer, Johnson also enjoyed the limelight of a League hat-trick last season, as did his Liverpool team-mate David Fairclough.

Ironically, it was while Johnson was injured that 'Supersub' Fairclough scored his three goals in that breathtaking 5-3 victory at Norwich.

Fairclough is still waiting patiently for his chance to gain a regular first team spot at Liverpool, but one player who fully established himself last season was Ipswich Town's diminutive striker Eric Gates.

Gates was not the only player at Portman Road last season to score three goals in one game, but the long-range accuracy and exciting close control of this talented

David Johnson (Liverpool)



HAT-TRICK HERO

England strikers Bob Latchford (above) and Terry Birtles (right).



Alan Biley
(Derby)



forward promise great things for the future.

One player whose career in recent months has been at a distinctly low ebb is Everton's Bob Latchford.

The former England centre-forward managed only six League goals last season, yet three of those came within 45 minutes of each other. That first-half hat-trick came against Leeds at Goodison Park, and now Latchford will be looking to recapture that strike-rate in order to regain his international spot.

Another striker to score three times last season was Nottingham Forest's Garry Birtles. Although he failed to impress in his first full game for England against the Italians in the European Championship, his future seems assured.

Another talented young striker currently knocking on the door for international honours is Stoke City's Garth Crooks. It was his goals last season which helped to ease his club's battle against relegation.

Others to get a threesome of goals include Ipswich's Paul Mariner and John Wark and Alan Biley of Derby. In fact Biley pulled off an unusual feat last season. His first hat-trick came for Second Division Cambridge United, his second followed a subsequent move to relegated Derby County.

Two players in particular were not even satisfied with three goals in a game, and for big Mick Ferguson of Coventry and little

Stan Cummins at Sunderland, it was a case of FOUR in one go.

Cummins' four for Sunderland came shortly after a move from North East rivals Middlesbrough, but even he could not match his new team-mate John Hawley, who scored three goals in his first game, against Charlton at Roker Park, following a move from Leeds.

These then are just some of the men who were happy to score a hat-trick last season. With the new season just around the corner, the prospect of a hatful of goals from these and others will help to brighten even the gloomiest of summer days without football.



Southampton's Phil Boyer avoids a tackle from West Brom's John Wile (left). Stoke City's Under-21 international Garth Crooks (above).



Ipswich goal-poacher Eric Gates, shadowed by Tom Sloan of Manchester United.

GOAL-LINES

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All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Alan Young of Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

ENGLAND SHOULD HAVE LEARNED FROM SCOTLAND

★ As someone who knows what it is like for his country to fail at Championship level, I think there are one or two reasons for England's disappointment in the European Championship.

First, I feel that the team was overrated and that their opponents, particularly Belgium, were underrated.

There are certain players who should have played in all three games: Peter Shilton, Viv Anderson and someone who wasn't even there, Peter Barnes.

Dave Watson won't be in Spain, and if he deteriorates much further neither will Kevin Keegan.

European Footballers of the Year can't have better stages than European Cup Finals and Championships. Keegan was very disappointing in both.

The British Championship should have warned Ron Greenwood that his defence needed a new look. To concede four goals to Wales casts serious doubts on the strength of a defence.

Finally, the parallels between England in 1980 and Scotland in 1978 were ominous.

The "it'll be alright on the night" and "better a defeat here..." were evident this year. England should have learned from Scotland that this attitude in Britain must be changed abroad.

● Scotland had problems on and off the field in 1978. In Italy, England simply weren't good enough.

English or British?

After England's opening match in the European Championship against Belgium, what do we discover? Surprise, surprise! That English supporters have some bad in them too. This time it is English fans who have blackened the name of British supporters.

Okay, the behaviour of the fans at the Rangers/Celtic Scottish Cup Final was absolutely dreadful, but believe it or not there are many Scottish fans who just want to enjoy a good game of football.

What I object to is, at the Scottish Cup Final, the fans who caused the riot were classed Scottish fans, and quite rightly so, but, at England's opening match against Belgium, what were the riotous fans classed as? No, not English fans, but British fans.

How dare they involve us Scottish fans in that appalling behaviour in Italy?

EILEEN FRASER,
MUSSELBURGH.

● I'd just call them hooligans. These so-called fans from England and Scotland have blackened our football so much I'm ashamed to put a tag on them.

Bad enough

I was mad when commentators said "British supporters" rioted in Turin. Scottish supporters have got a bad name already without making it worse.

JOHN BATES
SOLIHULL.

● I'm not sure whether this is a compliment or not!

Lay off Ron

I am writing in reply to the critics who are already saying it is time for Ron Greenwood to go. Only a couple of months ago, he could do no wrong, and England were rated to be good enough to win the European Championship.

But now that has all changed. They can't have it both ways. How can they say it was his fault only?

I felt that Greenwood was wrong when he changed the team for the match against Italy, but what the team does on the pitch counts a lot as well. So come on, let's give Ron a bit of encouragement, after all he hasn't lost that often.

ROSEMARY BENTHAM,
LONDON.

● Greenwood made mistakes and deserved criticism, but I don't believe he should be sacked.

Pen-pals

I'm a 17-year-old Norwegian boy and I'd like to write to anyone in Liverpool who wants to write to me. My favourite team are Everton and my hobbies are collecting autographs and souvenirs.

JAN-ERIK ARRATOON,
SPRINTVEIEN 38F,
3200 SANDEFJORD,
NORWAY.

I'm a 17-year-old Belgian boy and I'd like pen-pals in England and Scotland. I support Liverpool.

PETER VAN DER VORST,
OUOLE STEENWEG 95,
2000 ANTWERPEN,
BELGIUM.

I'm a 13-year-old Swedish boy and I'd like to correspond with an English boy who supports Liverpool.

JOHN SJÖBERG,
SKÅNEGATAN 53,
11637 STOCKHOLM,
SWEDEN.



CARRY ON ALBION!



John Wile cuts out the danger posed by Tottenham's Chris Jones.

JOHN Wile's aim next season is for West Bromwich Albion to maintain the improvement in form which lifted them from third bottom around last Christmas to a comfortable mid-table position in May.

"We spent the first four months of this year trying to work together as a team," says the Albion skipper.

"With that behind us, we can continue to operate as a unit, concentrating on not giving away easy goals — if there is to be any 'pretty-pretty' stuff, that can follow later.

"When we sold Laurie Cunningham, many people thought his departure would leave an irreparable gap, but to me, it was the loss of Len Cantello in midfield that hit us most.

"Now we've strength again in that department due to the job done by Remi Moses, part of which is giving stability to our defence.

'Prefer'

"He does this by protecting the Albion back-four, preventing opposing players from running head-on at us. As a centre-back I prefer the men I am up against being eased out towards the flanks, where our full-backs can deal with them.

"It's when players try to penetrate through the middle that danger arises.

"Of course, we have laid plans to deal with any such attempts by the opposition, and if these prove successful we'll have established a foundation for us to improve on our League position."

Following their promotion in 1976, West Bromwich were up among the leaders in the seasons that followed, finishing fifth, fourth and third in the First Division before dropping a few places last term.

Wile says: "We could honestly point to injuries, team changes and players coming and going, for

our slump.

"One of our buys, Peter Barnes, is a talented individualist, and I think we'll see the best of him during the next few months. By then I expect to see Albion functioning successfully as a well-balanced side, and it's within this sort of framework that a ball-player like Peter can use his skills to the maximum.

"But it is most important for the team as a whole to be doing well, so that every player benefits from the side getting the right results.

"To achieve them, I'm hoping that we can score more goals in future, even though forwards are likely to be less consistent than defenders — this just seems to be in the natural order of things.

"I'm not being smug about Albion's defence, because as part of it last season, I wasn't particularly happy about some of my own performances. I didn't feel I let the side down, but nevertheless I knew that last season wasn't one of my best."

Wile's ambitions for his club and himself are linked to a wish to see the quality of football improved in the First Division.

"There was a drop in the standard of play which disappointed me last season, and it will be a good thing for the League, and the spectators, if there is more emphasis on skill in 1980-81.

"I anticipate that the same clubs will be up at the top of the table again, with Albion among them, as we were certainly heading in the right direction in May.

"In our final 17 games last season, we had only a couple of bad results, and we'll be making our bid to be among the leaders with a probable pool of 15 or 16 players. Only clubs like Liverpool can really afford a big pool, because so much expense is involved.

"But our players are adaptable, able to play in more than one position, and we can switch them around if necessary."



FOOTBALL Association Secretary Ted Croker sits in a plush leather chair in an office high above Lancaster Gate, West London, and reflects on the merits and problems of English football's most prized job.

Croker, suit immaculate, tie impeccably knotted and white shirt crisp and clean, is a man who plays a major role in the destiny of football in England.

And, as he is quick to point out, the 92 clubs within the Football League are really only the tip of the iceberg as far as Croker's dealings and commitments go.

There are 38,000 clubs in England, every one of them under the jurisdiction of the Football Association. The Football League clubs, despite their glamour and importance, are just a small part of Croker's full time job.

Demands

Ted Croker is a man ideally suited for the demands of the Football Association's Secretary. He played First Division football for Charlton Athletic, and also played in the Southern League some while after, for Headington United.

He also has extensive experience of the business world, a vital asset at a time when our national game is so integrated with financial considerations.

Croker, born in 1924, was appointed Football Association Secretary in 1973. His job revolves around a world of offices, business meetings and discussions, with paperwork seeming to play an ever growing part in his day to day work.

But Croker sits back on an easy chair in his office, waves a hand and says: "Yes, I have commitments here but my job is also about getting out to meet people."

"My job involves a sport; football is a game played on grass, not in offices. I do have to attend several meetings as part of my weekly commitments but I have always believed, and will continue to do

so, that I must get out to as many matches as possible.

"It may be a popular theory that the Secretary of the Football Association gets his free seat for all England's international matches, plus the F.A. Cup Final!

"But perhaps people don't know about all the nights I'm out watching games — at places like Hungerford Town, Newport County and Exeter City. That's the other side to my job.

"I go to about two or three matches a week. I spend most weekends in my West Country home so I can get to London, the Midlands and the West quite easily.

"Sometimes, I'll go North to see games, too, because it is essential I get around as much as possible to talk to the people who matter.

"By that, I mean the officials, secretaries and even supporters from all the clubs affiliated to the Football Association — not just the glamour clubs but also the non-League clubs and County sides. They are just as important, in their own particular way, and I am very conscious of that fact."

Croker, now 56, has a pleasing, friendly manner. It's no wonder he is a popular secretary, for he has a natural friendly smile, and a word

The world of Ted Croker~ England's Mr Football

for everyone — from England team manager, Ron Greenwood to the part-time secretaries at tiny clubs in the remotest parts of the country.

It is clear his business background was a major consideration in the deliberations of the men who appointed him. As he says: "It's very useful to have been in business, run a Company (he was chairman and managing director of Croker Cheltenham Ltd., a firm dealing in the manufacturing side of special purpose vehicles), and had experience of the business world.

"Marketing football in the right way is of paramount importance these days. The experience of running a company is also useful, for the F.A. is a business. It has 70 employees, and you must run it as a business thinking in terms of profit and loss."

Croker is by no means a straight, conservative F.A. type official adhering to age old views about issues which need modern-day thinking.

On the thorny issue of TV and football, he says firmly: "There is a massive audience of people who watch football on TV. You can't ignore 20 million people, just because they might prefer to watch football on TV, rather than actually go to the matches.

"I try to look at things from the commercial aspect, and that probably comes from my business background. But above all else, the welfare of football comes first. That is the single most important factor in all my work."

Croker is also interested in other sports — principally golf, tennis and water-skiing. He likes gardening and playing bridge but admits

F.A. commitments often eat deeply into his social life. That, he says, is no more than to be expected and something he accepts, as he always has done.

He does some things which are entirely expected for the man with his job, yet other things he is involved in would surprise many.

For the last 12 months Croker has been closely involved in the matter of discipline within the game. One well known player, whom Croker wishes to keep secret, found himself on rather more than a simple disciplinary charge when he appeared at the F.A. after totalling 20 points for offences on the field.

'Disgrace'

"I asked the player and his manager to come up here after the hearing had finished," said Croker. "I was very firm with him. I told him I thought he was a very fine player who could give a lot of people immense pleasure. But I also told him I thought he was a disgrace to his profession and professional colleagues."

How did the star player take it? "I think he was surprised, but he accepted it," said Croker.

"The delightful thing was, I saw him several weeks later playing in a match and experience an incident which I'm sure would have made him react. But he turned away from the trouble, and I often wondered afterwards whether that had anything to do with what I had told him."

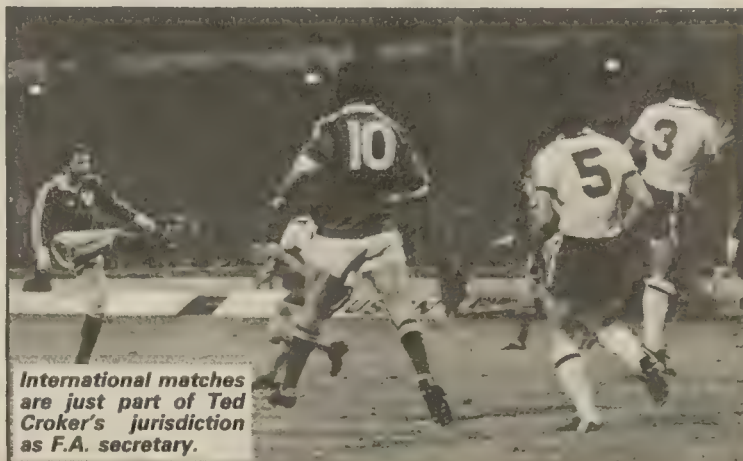
Croker has achieved some notable things in his seven-year spell at Lancaster Gate. Certainly, there will be more successes by the time he retires.

He started with one simple idea, and he intends to continue that thought for the rest of his stay with the F.A.

"When I first took over, I tried to ensure as many people as possible got as much pleasure as possible from the game.

"I still try to do that, whichever area it applies to. The game, I'm sure, has a bright future even though financial problems will certainly crop up in the next few years.

"But we must ensure that, whatever the financial situation, progress is made in such a way as to be good for the game itself. Selling football in a bad way, or for the sake of a handful of notes, isn't the way to guarantee the game a successful future. That is something I am always aware of."



International matches are just part of Ted Croker's jurisdiction as F.A. secretary.

PUZZLE TIME

TEAM PARTNERS

No, these are not the names of teams' girlie mascots, but the names of an English and a Scottish team, merged and letters jumbled. Sort them out by unscrambling the letters. As a guide, the first pair is identified for you.

1	DEIDRE CLANGY Clyde, Reading
2	POLLY-VERA RIO
3	RUTH RAIBY
4	SALLY BIGROOM
5	KATE SHORRY
6	CLARA LENTICES
7	BERYL MONTHAID
8	NELLIE DUNNCOD

LOOK HERE . . .

. . . in this frame, for all the 16 teams of the above puzzle. They are spelt out in vertical, horizontal or diagonal lines, forwards or backwards. As a guide, the first pair has been indicated for you.

G	A	L	O	N	T	R	D	E	L	T	O
H	N	B	C	L	E	E	D	N	U	D	Y
T	L	I	V	E	R	P	O	O	L	B	N
I	R	T	D	B	L	T	L	A	S	A	L
A	O	Y	Y	A	L	T	N	M	L	N	O
R	L	R	A	I	E	E	I	L	T	Y	C
C	U	L	M	O	S	R	O	C	O	L	N
B	T	A	N	R	G	A	F	R	O	E	I
O	H	E	A	R	T	S	K	N	T	L	L

ANGLO-SCOTS ALLIANCE

Solve the simple "across" clues and 2 and 3 down will spell out the name of a famous English and Scots team.

- 1 Sprite 6 Rule
4 Test 7 Below
5 Employing 8 Couples
9 Hold

1	2		3	
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

ANSWERS ON PAGE — 42



'I WANT TO BE ENGLAND'S FIRST CHOICE'



I WAS upset during the European Championship by the way the English Press treated the goal-keeping situation between Ray Clemence and myself.

When Ray was picked for the first game against Belgium it was reported that I was unhappy about being left out and it appeared from one story as though I was on the verge of a walkout.

It was ridiculous to suggest I was reacting in that way and in fact the following day I went to Ron Greenwood and said I was sorry about stories which had appeared.

He said he understood the situation and then surprised me by saying: "Don't worry about anything — you're playing against Italy tomorrow."

I must say I was delighted but in some ways shocked because I

Kevin Keegan (left) is no rival to Peter Shilton in goal, yet even Peter could not prevent Italy's Marco Tardelli from scoring the winner in Turin (above).



'I'M SPYING ON THE U.S.'

WE'RE off to America this week with Nottingham Forest and I'm looking forward to the trip very much . . . for several reasons.

I've always wanted to visit the States but I turned down the best chance I had several seasons ago when I withdrew from the England squad going out there with Don Revie.

Like everybody else I am fascinated by the progress that has been made in the North American Soccer League and obviously a lot of English players have made names for themselves on the other side of the Atlantic.

Experience

Our own Trevor Francis was a big hit with *Detroit Express* a couple of seasons ago and from talking to him it is evident that the way they play the game out there is a completely new experience.

Like a lot of professional footballers in this country I have thought about the possibility of one day giving it a go, and although that is not in the immediate future, the insight I should get during this trip will be more than useful.

We are playing five games in America and Canada, just the kind of build up we need to the new season.

The opposition should not be too strong, but everybody knows

by now that Brian Clough and Peter Taylor don't believe in a leisurely attitude on the pitch so we will be expected to give everything in all of the games.

Although we have not had much time to relax this summer, I am ready to start a new season. I had a break after the European Championship and the boss gave me an extra few days holiday so that I could go away to Portugal with my family.

But I am now looking forward to the States and then taking part in a tournament in Amsterdam early next month.

The competition in Holland promises to be a tougher test because the other sides taking part are, Bayern Munich, Ajax and another top Dutch side Alkmaar.

Bayern beat us 5-0 in our build up to last season and needless to say I hope there is no repeat of that . . . I'm just not used to picking the ball out of the net on so many occasions.

Lee Smelt



rather got the impression that Mr Greenwood would stick as much as possible to a settled side.

I don't mind admitting that I wanted to be chosen for the first game and play right through the Championship because I am trying to establish myself as number one.

But obviously the Press, looking back on the way I had played in the European Cup Final, were trying to build up the situation involving Ray and I.

As always, however, we remained the best of friends. And that's the way it will stay even though we are both out to be recognised as first choice.

When you are competing with a world class goalkeeper there is bound to be some difficulty. A solution might present itself if one of us lost form dramatically or was injured.

Then the other would establish himself but, for the time being, playing alternate games is certainly better than none at all.

Do you know, even Kevin Keegan fancies his chances between the sticks as the photograph I brought back from Italy reveals.

'LEE SMELT WAS MY TRANSFER CHOICE'

I'VE got a new goalkeeper working with me at The City Ground this season — Lee Smelt, a promising youngster we signed from Gravesend during the summer.

And from what I've seen of him already there's no reason why he should not make a name for himself in full-time football.

Roger Easterby, the Gravesend Chairman, is a close friend of mine so I knew something about Lee when I recommended to Peter Taylor that we ought to take a look at him.

Ever since Chris Woods left for Queens Park Rangers we have been in need of a young goalkeeper and Lee fitted the bill just right.

I understand the fee was somewhere in the region of £50,000 so if he makes the grade everybody should be happy.

But Lee will be the first to recognise that he has still got a lot to learn. He is a good shot-stopper, he is agile and has got a good pair of hands.

What he hasn't got at the moment is the positional sense that is so vital for any goalkeeper. When I've seen him he tends to be in the wrong positions to deal with crosses, and that's a part of his game that I'll be trying to work on with him.

Having said that, although he's often been found lacking in positional play he's almost retrieved the situations through his determination and natural ability. So there's clearly something to work on.

What I also liked about him

when I met him for the first time was his manner and dress.

He looked very smart and clean-cut and I always think that's good.

He seems to have a very good temperament, too, and if he's like that off the field then there is a fair chance it will benefit him when he gets out into the middle.

I hope I can pass on some useful tips and who knows he might either take over from me one day or move on to be the first choice at another club.

But I just hope that people don't expect too much too quickly.



Lee Smelt impressed Forest in a friendly game with non-League team Gravesend and Northfleet.

Scottish Premier Division Appearances 1979-80

ABERDEEN

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Clark.....	34	11	3	48
Rougvie.....	22	7	4	33
Kennedy.....	35	11	5	51
Considine.....	14	7	1	22
Strachan.....	33	11	5	49
Gamer.....	19	11	1	31
Miller.....	31	8	5	44
Archibald.....	34	11	5	50
Sullivan.....	2	—	—	2
Jarvie.....	22	2	4	28
Harper.....	7	6	—	13
Hamilton.....	11	—	4	15
McLeish.....	35	11	4	50
Davidson.....	2	1	—	3
McMaster.....	31	10	4	45
Cooper.....	1	—	—	1
McGhee.....	14	7	1	22
Bell.....	4	—	1	5
Scanlon.....	25	7	4	36
Watson.....	12	—	2	14
Hewitt.....	2	—	—	2

STEVE Archibald (now with Tottenham Hotspur) finished as top scorer with 22 goals. His best performance was a foursome against Airdrie in the Scottish Cup Third Round tie at Pittodrie Park on Saturday, February 16, when The Dons won 8-0.

He also scored all three goals against Celtic at Pittodrie in the League Quarter-Final, first leg, on Wednesday, October 31.

Aberdeen won the Championship for the first time since 1955.

CELTIC

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Latchford.....	36	6	4	46
Sneddon.....	32	6	6	44
McGrain.....	32	6	5	43
Aitken.....	35	6	5	46
McDonald.....	26	4	5	35
McAdam.....	34	6	5	45
Provan.....	35	5	6	46
Edvaldsson.....	5	2	—	7
McCluskey.....	21	5	3	29
McLeod.....	36	6	6	48
Davidson.....	5	4	—	9
Conroy.....	13	3	1	17
Doyle.....	21	4	6	31
Burns.....	11	—	1	12
Lynch.....	2	—	—	2
Lennox.....	19	3	5	27
Casey.....	2	—	1	3
McGarvey.....	11	—	2	13
Sullivan.....	15	—	1	16

CELTIC were pipped at the post by Aberdeen in their drive to win the Premier League Championship for the second season in succession. But they atoned by winning the Scottish Cup. Their team included Frank McGarvey, their £300,000 signing from Liverpool.



DUNDEE

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Donaldson.....	36	6	1	43
Barr.....	26	5	—	31
Turnbull.....	8	6	—	14
Williamson.....	3	2	—	5
Glennie.....	35	5	1	41
Watson.....	4	2	—	6
Fletcher.....	12	4	—	16
Shirra.....	27	3	1	31
Sinclair.....	35	6	1	42
Redford.....	13	3	1	17
Murphy.....	28	5	1	34
Caldwell.....	2	1	—	3
McLaren.....	28	5	1	34
McGeachie.....	28	5	—	33
Miller.....	26	4	1	31
Schaefer.....	27	2	1	30
Pirie.....	9	2	1	12
Ferguson.....	9	—	—	9
Mackie.....	21	—	1	22
Fleming.....	16	—	—	16

TOWARDS the end of the season Ian Redford was transferred to Rangers for £200,000. Dundee finished second bottom of the Premier League and were relegated for the second time. United were the only Premier team to use three goalkeepers.

DUNDEE UNITED

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Graham.....	2	—	—	2
Bonetti.....	5	2	—	7
McAlpine.....	29	6	2	37
Stewart.....	3	—	—	3
Kopel.....	31	9	1	41
Phillip.....	25	4	2	31
Stark.....	32	9	2	43
Narey.....	35	9	1	45
Milne.....	2	2	—	4
Sturrock.....	33	7	2	42
Fleming.....	23	6	2	31
Payne.....	18	7	2	27
Dodds.....	14	2	—	16
Smith.....	2	1	—	3
Addison.....	13	2	—	15
Ballantyne.....	1	1	—	2
Kirkwood.....	21	6	—	27
Pettigrew.....	34	9	2	45
Hegarty.....	27	8	2	37
Bannon.....	24	5	2	31
Murray.....	2	—	—	2
Holt.....	16	3	2	21

DUNDEE United made history during the season by winning the Scottish League Cup for the first time ever... and in their native city! They beat Aberdeen in the Final replay at Dens Park by 3-0.

HIBERNIAN

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
McArthur.....	29	3	4	36
Brazil.....	31	4	4	39
Duncan.....	26	3	2	31
Bremner.....	5	2	—	7
Stewart.....	13	2	1	16
McNamara.....	30	4	2	36
Callaghan.....	26	4	4	34
McLeod.....	25	3	3	31
Campbell.....	16	2	2	20
Brown S.....	4	—	—	4
Higgins.....	20	4	3	27
Rae.....	31	3	3	37
Hutchinson.....	18	4	2	24
Lambie.....	10	1	4	15
Paterson.....	30	1	3	34
Brown J.....	7	—	—	7
McDonald.....	4	1	—	5
Murray.....	12	—	—	12
Rodier.....	3	—	—	3
Ward.....	9	2	—	11
Huggins.....	3	—	—	3
Best.....	13	—	3	16
Torrance.....	8	—	1	9
Tierney.....	1	—	—	1

HIBERNIAN finished up at the bottom of the table and were relegated. During the season, the Edinburgh club sold Des Bremner to Aston Villa and brought Irish international star George Best to Easter Road.

They now face their first season out of the top Division.

Gordon Rae, a member of the Hibs team relegated from the Premier Division.



Partick Thistle full-back Brian Whittaker, who could be on the move soon,

PARTICK THISTLE

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Rough.....	34	4	3	41
McKinnon.....	29	4	3	36
Whittaker.....	35	4	3	42
Gibson.....	23	4	1	28
Anderson.....	26	1	3	30
Marr.....	10	3	—	13
Houston.....	3	2	—	5
Love.....	2	—	—	2
O'Hara.....	33	3	3	39
Melrose.....	31	4	3	38
Park.....	29	3	2	34
Wilson.....	—	1	1	2
Doyle.....	32	3	3	38
Campbell.....	33	4	3	40
McAdam.....	31	4	3	38
McGregor.....	3	—	—	3
Jardine.....	11	—	2	13
McDonald.....	12	—	—	12
Higgins.....	11	—	—	11
McNab.....	2	—	—	2
Mackie.....	1	—	—	1
Lapsley.....	2	—	—	2

COLIN McAdam finished the season as top scorer with 23 goals, a feat that had a sequel in his recent transfer to Rangers. As well as being a lethal striker, he showed his versatility with five star displays at centre-half as well.

RANGERS

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
McCloy.....	34	4	6	44
Jardine.....	35	4	6	45
Dawson.....	32	4	5	41
Redford.....	13	—	—	13
Jackson.....	29	4	5	38
Watson.....	12	1	1	14
McLean.....	22	1	1	24
Russell.....	22	2	5	29
Johnstone.....	30	2	6	38
McDonald, A.....	22	4	1	27
Cooper.....	25	4	5	34
Smith.....	19	3	4	26
McDonald, J.....	23	1	6	30
Parlane.....	2	1	—	3
Forsyth, T.....	7	—	2	9
Stevens.....	32	2	6	40
Forsyth, A.....	8	—	—	8
Young.....	2	—	—	2
Mackay.....	—	1	—	1

SINCE the end of the season, Rangers have transferred Gordon Smith to Brighton and Hove Albion for £400,000. Rangers failed to qualify for Europe for the first time in five years.

Skipper Derek Johnstone was once again the club's leading marksman with a total of 18 goals.

KILMARNOCK

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
McCulloch.....	36	8	1	44
McLean.....	32	8	1	41
Robertson.....	24	8	—	32
Clark.....	34	8	1	43
Clarke.....	35	8	1	44
McDicken.....	34	8	1	43
Gibson.....	31	8	1	40
Maxwell.....	19	6	1	26
Bourke.....	20	7	1	28
Mauchlen.....	31	7	—	38
Street.....	26	5	—	31
Welsh.....	17	—	1	18
Jardine.....	2	2	—	4
Docherty.....	2	1	—	3
Cairney.....	9	3	—	12
Houston.....	24	—	1	25
Cramond.....	16	—	1	17
Armstrong.....	3	—	—	3
Cockburn.....	1	—	—	1

ALTHOUGH they finished third from bottom, Kilmarnock were nevertheless seven points clear of the two relegated teams.

Top scorer was Street with just ten goals.

MORTON

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Baines.....	36	7	2	45
Hayes.....	22	7	2	31
Holmes.....	33	7	3	43
Anderson.....	20	2	2	24
Orr.....	34	7	3	44
Rooney.....	17	2	—	19
Russell.....	7	1	1	9
Hutchison.....	30	4	2	36
Thomson.....	27	6	3	36
McNeil.....	15	6	1	22
Ritchie.....	34	7	3	44
Mauchlen.....	1	—	—	1
Tolmie.....	15	1	1	17
McLaren.....	25	3	1	29
Brown.....	9	2	3	14
Scott.....	13	1	—	14
McLaughlin.....	31	6	1	38
Miller.....	20	3	3	26
Richardson.....	1	—	—	1
Craig.....	6	—	—	6

ONCE again, Andy Ritchie was the Greenock club's leading marksman with 27 goals, and considering that he occupies the number eleven spot, it was a superb performance. Small wonder he is the toast of Cappielow Park!

ST. MIRREN

	L	L.C.	S.C.	Total
Thomson.....	36	4	3	43
Beeckett.....	18	2	1	21
Munro.....	32	4	2	38
Richardson.....	30	3	2	35
Dunlop.....	8	4	—	12
Cooperand.....	35	4	3	42
McDougall.....	16	2	3	21
Stark.....	35	4	3	42
Sonner.....	32	2	3	37
Abercrombie.....	14	2	—	16
Torrance.....	6	4	—	10
Young.....	24	2	3	29
Docherty.....	7	4	—	11
Bone.....	32	2	3	37
Weir.....	24	—	3	27
Fulton.....	27	—	3	30
Reid.....	1	—	—	1
Logan.....	14	—	—	14

SAINTS paid £100,000 to Partick Thistle for the transfer of Dougie Somner, centre-forward, and it paid handsomely. He finished his first season at Love Street with 35 goals to his credit... a superb performance considering that he is a part-time footballer. He was also the leading Scottish League scorer with 31 goals.



SUMMER SIGNINGS

The summer months are traditionally a time when footballers consider their futures and contemplate a move to new clubs. Although the transfer market has been surprisingly subdued so far, there have nevertheless been some headline-catching signings in recent weeks. Doubtless there will be more before the new season kicks off, and here we take a pictorial look at some who have already accepted the change.



Gordon Smith (left, dark shirt) went from Rangers to Brighton. David Swindlehurst and David Webb (above) were both involved with Derby boss Colin Addison. Swindlehurst signed from Palace, Webb left for Bournemouth. Richard Money (below dark shorts) went from Fulham to Liverpool



Clive Allen (left) can afford to relax — he's just signed for Arsenal for £1.2 million. Brian Kidd (right) on the move again, from Everton to Bolton



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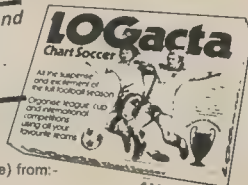
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GOAL-MACHINE ZICO

WHILE Lierse striker Erwin Van den Bergh won the Adidas European Golden Boot Award for topping the Continent's scoring charts, it's worth bearing in mind that even his incredible tally of 39 goals doesn't put him in range of South America's top scorer of last season, Zico.

The Flamengo star hit 65 League goals, and took his tally to an overall 89 by scoring 16 in friendly matches; seven for the Brazilian national team; and one for the Rest of the World side that beat Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Just for the record — and so that you can compare with the European scoring tables — here are the top scorers from South and Central America.

Player	Club	Country	Goals
1 Zico	Flamengo	Brazil	65
2 Irigoyen	Millonarios	Colombia	33
3 Leyva	Alfonso Ugarte	Peru	28
4 Miori	Emelec	Ecuador	27
5 Maradona	Argentinos Juniors	Argentina	26
6 Fabbiani	Tampa Bay Rowdies	U.S.A.	26
7 Cavinho	Universidad	Mexico	24
8 Sanchez	Universidad	Mexico	24
9 Baldesarri	Blooming	Bolivia	21
10 Caszely	Colo Colo	Chile	20
11 Victorino	Nacional	Uruguay	19
12 Ferrari	Tachira	Venezuela	16
13 Izquierdo	Turrialba	Costa Rica	13

Interesting to note that five of the list are Argentinian.

MEXICO's leading goalscorer Juan Manuel Azuara is the leading suspect in a murder case! The Universidad de Nuevo Leon striker is a big star in Mexico, but the police have called him in for questioning with relation to a murder committed in the local Holiday Inn Hotel two years ago, in which a prominent lawyer was shot.

FRENCH 'KEEPERS RULE

STRANGE how goalkeepers tend to come out on top in player polls. I've mentioned before the high percentage of 'keepers among the Players of the Year in European countries, maybe because a relatively safe performance is enough to earn them good ratings whereas an outfield player has to do something special to earn the same rating.

This certainly seems to be the case in France where seven of the top 11 in France Football's ratings are goalkeepers!

The top outfield player is Bordeaux midfielder Giresse (in third place), followed by Sochaux stopper Djadaoui and Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Bathenay.

IF there's one thing that Barcelona have got, it's money. And they seem to be quite ingenious when it comes to finding ways of spending it.

After one of the most dismal seasons in the club's history they offered the team a bonus of £2,100 a man for qualifying for the UEFA Cup (which they did).

If they hadn't played so badly during the season, they wouldn't have received the bonus! Manager Herrera cynically says it's the only way to motivate footballers.

Not happy on holiday

ATLETICO Madrid's Brazilian midfielder Jose Dirceu isn't at all happy at having spent the summer on holiday! Houston had offered him £500 per week plus a luxury flat and a brand-new car if he would play in the States for two months.

But Atletico, who would have received £30,000 'commission' on the deal, refused permission.

Dirceu wasn't made any happier when he discovered that both he and fellow Brazilian Luiz Pereira have been listed as transferrable if the right sort of offer comes along.



ARGENTINA's reserve goalkeeper Hector "Chocolate" Baley returned to Buenos Aires with a special souvenir of his visit to London — a two-month-old Irish Setter which cost him £350. First choice 'keeper Pato Fillol (below) also brought back many souvenirs, spending £200 in one shop alone!



PHOTO-FINISH IN GREECE

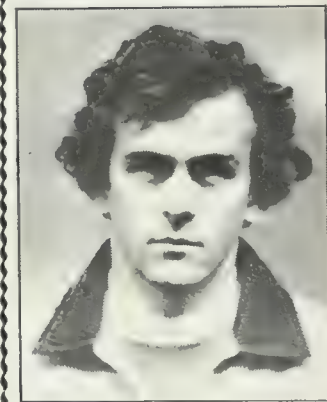
WHILE the Greek national team was playing its role as supreme outsiders in the European Championship, people in Greece were still arguing about the most sensational League Championship that anyone can remember, in the 44 years of its history.

The title was so closely contested by five teams that a play-off was necessary to decide the eventual Champion!

Olympiakos clinched the crown by beating Aris Salonika 2-0.

TAXING PROBLEMS

FRANCE's Number One idol Michel Platini (below) reckons to earn about £600,000 a season, thanks to his contracts with St-Etienne and various commercial enterprises. He also reckons he pays £290,000 in tax.



News flashes

● After the European Championship, Ron Greenwood and Jupp Derwall (below), the manager of West Germany have agreed to conduct coaching courses for Third World countries. Also on the panel will be Ribbeck, assistant, Erich Ribbeck, Hellenio Hererra



(Barcelona), Miljan Miljanic (Yugoslavia), Michel Hidalgo (France) and Dr. Jozef Venglos (Czechoslovakia).

● Henryk Kasperczak, the midfield player who played for Poland in the 1974 World Cup, has just retired after three years with the French Club FC Metz. They are the only club in the top flight without a contracted manager-coach for the new season, hoping to persuade the F.A. to let them give Kasperczak the job even though, like several other managers, he does not have their coaching licence.

● European clubs who had wanted to sign the Flamengo star Zico have been forced to look elsewhere for the Brazilian star has signed a new contract. For one more

year Zico will receive a minimum of £90,000, plus bonuses.



● The Spanish tax authorities have published a list of people who owe 'Hacienda' considerable sums of unpaid taxes. Among the late payers is a certain Johan Cruyff (above), who still owes just over £200,000.

● Several officials of Iraklis (Salonika) have been suspended and chairman Kostas Persinidis, who was alleged to have made the bribe offer, has been jailed for three years. The alleged affair came to light when the captain of PAOK, the Iraklis neighbours, reported to his club that he had been offered £25,000 to 'fix' the game between the two sides.

● Bulgaria began their 1982 World Cup campaign with a 2-0 win over Finland in Helsinki. This was rated a big success in Sofia for new manager, 47-year-old Atanas Parjelov, who recalled as captain Bojil Kolev, who has more than 50 caps but who had been omitted for more than two years.

SPAIN'S PROFESSIONAL OLYMPIANS

SPAIN are one of the countries who've decided not to boycott the Moscow Olympics, and their football team qualified for the Finals with a 3-1 win over France in Alicante including two penalties.

The Spaniards, like most other nations unfortunately, fielded an all-professional side of full-time footballers.

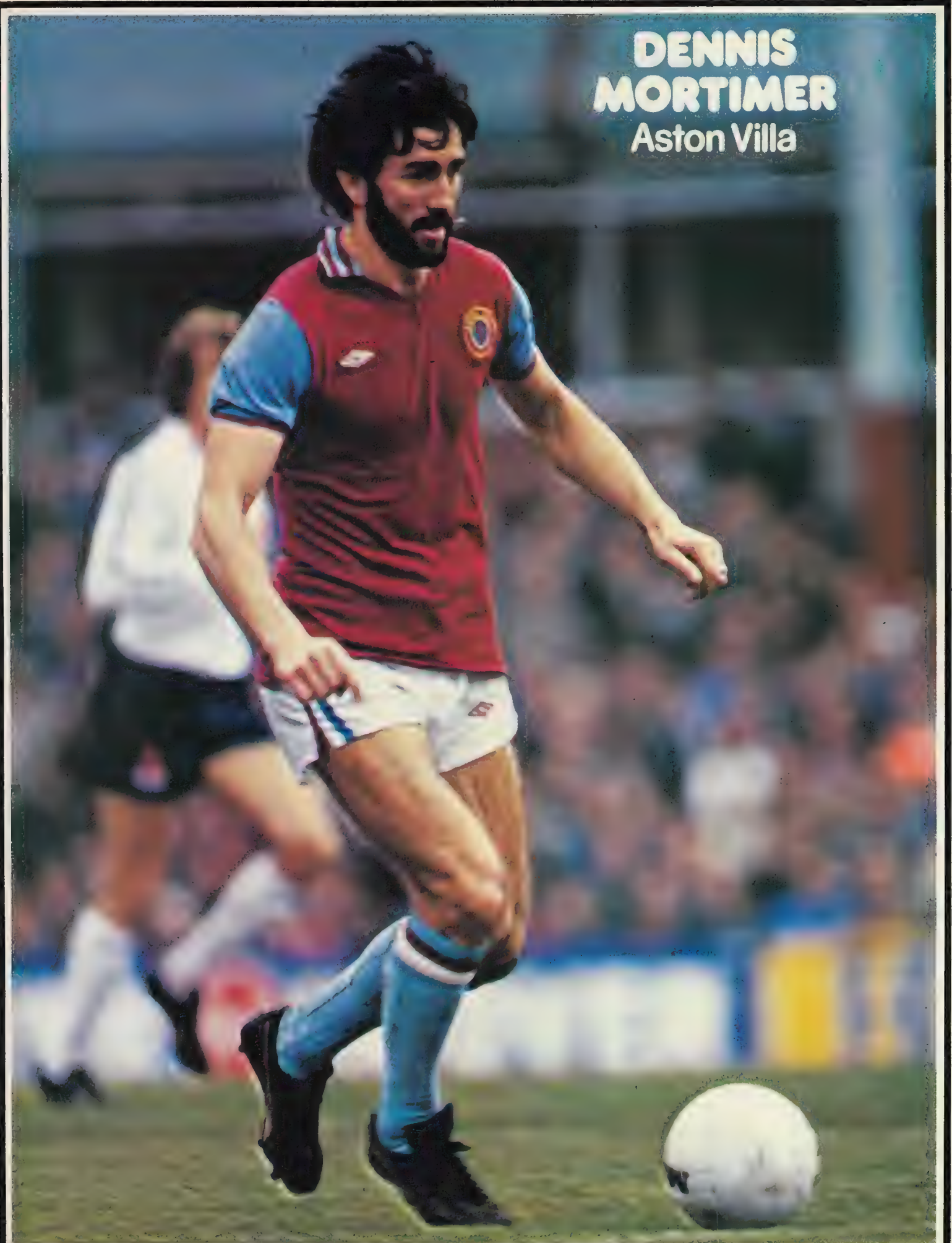
Of the 13 players fielded against the French, 12 are regular first teamers in Division One and the other is with a Second Division Club.

Their earnings (without bonuses) average around £275 a week. Here's a list of the players with their clubs in brackets:

Buyo (Coruña), Urquiza (Bilbao), Gajate (Real Sociedad), De Andrés (Bilbao), Quique (At. Madrid), Victor (Zaragoza), David (Gijón), Aracil (Hercules), Marcos (At. Madrid), Montero (Sevilla), Rubio (At. Madrid), Julio (Las Palmas), Abad (Hercules).

● Spain's all-professional Olympic team were 'concentrated' in Madrid before their vital qualifying match against France in Alicante. But after two days of kicking their heels in a Madrid hotel, they arrived at the airport too late to catch their plane to Alicante. Officials blamed the pilot for not waiting.

**DENNIS
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Aston Villa



SHOOT!

My fear GLENN HODDLE

It was a short close-season for Glenn Hoddle, just three and a half weeks from the end of the European Championship to pre-season training with Spurs. There was no opportunity for a holiday as the England star's wife is a teacher and was still at work. All Hoddle managed in an effort to recharge his batteries was a few rounds of golf and a couple of long weekends in the country.

Hoddle says: "Usually I'm keen to start training and can't wait for the new season, but the past year has been a demanding one for me and I hope there isn't a backlash."

The 1979/80 season was a long one for Hoddle and other England stars, underlining the demands made of internationals. It was, however, a highly successful one for the 22-year-old midfielder, who scored some spectacular goals, many captured by the television cameras.

"My worry is that I can't see myself doing so well next season. In fact, I doubt if any midfield player will score 22 goals. I'll be happy with between ten and 15, which every midfielder should aim for."

"Regarding my long-range shooting, it's purely instinct. Last season I believe I scored only three goals from inside the six-yard box and two of those were headers. I don't practise volleying — if the situation arises I'll have a go, but nothing is pre-planned."

Hoddle played just once in Italy, against Spain. He isn't too disappointed and says: "I was just happy to be in the squad after my late call-up. My attitude was that simply being involved would be valuable experience. Anything else was a bonus."

"Playing against Spain capped a great year for me. I hope I can win many more caps for England — perhaps it's a good thing we have to play a World Cup Qualifier against Norway in September. It's a chance to get the European Championship out of our systems."

'Best Players'

"I learnt a lot in Italy. Even simply training with England is a boost. Ray Wilkins went out of his way both on the field and off it to help me — he and Kenny Sansom were our best players in the competition for my money."

"England didn't play as well as we can in Italy, although we didn't have a lot of luck either. The mood of the squad was still good, even in defeat and I can't see there being any depression when we meet up again for the Norway match."

The coming season could be Hoddle's last with Spurs, even though he stresses he hasn't made up his mind yet. Last summer he signed a two-year contract despite lucrative offers from the Continent. Hoddle wanted to play for his country and now he is slowly but surely establishing himself at international level.

"I've no idea what my decision will be next year. I want to be successful, to win things. Hopefully, I can achieve this with Spurs. If this doesn't happen I'll have to think again."

"The club has been too long without an honour. We have the basis of a good side and we must build on this. Steve Archibald, signed from Aberdeen, should be a valuable asset. I don't want to put pressure on him, but we must have someone who can score 20 goals from attack so that any goals from midfield are a bonus."

Hoddle still has his critics, who claim he drifts in and out of the game and doesn't do enough defensive work. He improved on these aspects last season and providing there is no backlash during 1980/81 Hoddle may well find himself a regular in the England side as the build-up for the 1982 World Cup gets under way.



SHOOT!

Ball winner



THE Americans don't believe in letting anything interfere with a celebration. When Giorgio Chinaglia (above) scored his 102nd League goal against California Surf — making him the NASL's top all-time scorer — the game was stopped while Commissioner Phil Woosnam presented him with the ball. Chinaglia managed to score with the new ball as well, but he wasn't allowed to keep that.

Ex-San Jose star Ilijah Mitic previously held the record with 101 goals in 166 games. Chinaglia passed it in game 103.

Hot-shot Fernando

BRAZILIAN Luis Fernando is North America's latest scoring sensation. He's scored 15 goals in as many games for Los Angeles Aztecs, including a brilliant hat-trick against Edmonton Drillers.

Barcelona wanted to buy Fernando for £400,000 earlier this year but he had already agreed to join the Aztecs for less than half that fee.

He says: "I'd given my word to the Aztecs and I didn't want to go back on it. Also, I'd been looking forward for the past two years to leaving Brazil and playing in the U.S."

Los Angeles coach Rinus Michels signed the player on the strength of one game.

Says Michels: "He didn't score in that game and for someone who is a specialist striker, that normally means it would have been a bad game for him."

"But I was impressed by the way he kept trying to score and getting into positions in which he could."

Fernando has helped L.A. fans forget the loss of Johan Cruyff. He's banged in ten goals in his last six games and is third in the League scoring list.

He sees himself staying in America for a long while. "I have had to make changes. In Brazil, soccer is more spontaneous, here more tactical. If I can adapt to this style, I can see myself here for 30 years."

Hard to beat Brand

JACK Brand was so disillusioned with American soccer at the end of last season that he packed his bags and went home to West Germany.

It took three months of weekly phone calls from Seattle coach Alan Hinton to persuade him to return. Now it's the NASL strikers who are disillusioned.

Brand has conceded just 15 goals in 19 games and has a remarkable goals against average of 0.75. He's the only 'keeper in the League with an average under one.

He is taking it all in his stride, saying: "My biggest problem is staying awake back there. Our defenders don't give me enough to do."

'Evergreen Alberto'

DESPITE the fact that people close to Carlos Alberto claim he's approaching 40, the brilliant Brazilian has no thoughts of retiring.

Alberto, who only admits to 35, says: "I will definitely play again next year, and if I fell good, maybe longer."

"I don't care if the Cosmos bring in new players. I will show on the field that I can play."

Alberto has been playing so well at the centre of the New York defence that there is no danger of the club looking for a replacement yet.

Crowd-puller

THE Cosmos — who else? — had the highest crowd of the NASL season so far when 70,312 saw them beat Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

It was the third biggest crown in NASL history and all eight of the top crowds this year have featured the Cosmos. Second highest was 54,247 when they visited Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Soccer in the States

No future

SANTIAGO Formosa has asked to be traded from Los Angeles Aztecs — and you can hardly blame the lad.

Apart from being called 'unprofessional' by coach Rinus Michels, he's been accused of taking drugs and turning up drunk to a training session.

Formosa denies the charges but says realistically: "I can't see any future for me here."

Brawling Rogues

FIVE players were suspended after an amazing mass brawl between players from Memphis Rogues and Vancouver Whitecaps.

Ray Hankin and Carl Valentine, ex-Oldham, were sent off and received automatic one match bans.

Rogues trio Mike Stojasavljevic, Mike Stankovic and Bob Stetler got a total of five games in suspensions.

The game wasn't as fiery as the extra curricular activities. The only goal came from an Alan Ball penalty for Vancouver.

Two other Whitecaps players have been banned. Defender Bob Lenarduzzi got a one match suspension after being red-carded in the following game against Edmonton and Roger Kenyon got the same punishment for collecting too many yellow cards.

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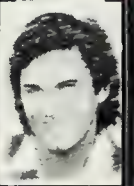
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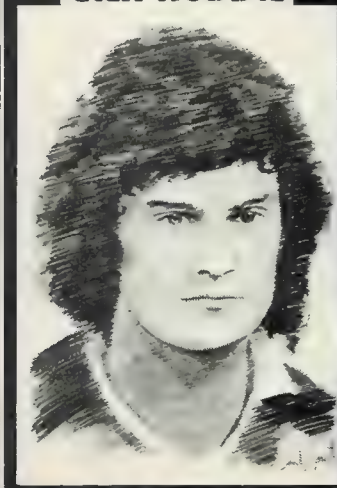
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VENNERS

VERDICT

WE are less than eight weeks away from England's World Cup qualifying match at Wembley against Norway and I feel it's my job to inform you that there is no despondency in Ron Greenwood's camp after the European Championship.

Naturally, we were disappointed not to have done better in Italy. Many lessons were learned, some the hard way, but they can only strengthen our challenge for the World Cup in 1982.

Let's not forget that England had not played in the Final of any big international tournament since the Mexico World Cup of 1970.

So getting to Italy was a major breakthrough masterminded by Ron Greenwood and made possible by an eager, and at times, impressive England team.

We knew after the 'friendly' against Spain in Barcelona that we were not world beaters. We knew

'Don't treat England too harshly'



Italy's Scirea is an uncompromising defender.

before the European Championship that both West Germany and Italy were going to be tough to beat, and that Holland and Belgium were likely to be difficult to overcome.

But we participated. We went there — and that is a start in our plans to make the 1980's better for England than the 1970's.

If you have been through a lean patch, it takes time to regain the initiative. The European Championship was not the be all and end of everything. In many ways it was a lottery.

The best team, West Germany, won the tournament; the rest scrambled for a place in the Final, odd goals dictating whether they went home to flag waving or silence and criticism.

England came back to criticism, some of it justified, much of it rubbish. Who suggested Ron Greenwood should consider retirement? Disgraceful that remark and unjustified.

I won't bother to defend a man who has given England more pride

in his two years and ten months in charge of the team than others before him.

The simple truth about the Championship is that the difference between winning and losing was so minimal you could hardly get angry with the losers.

Belgium seemed to be swinging the Final their way in the second half. What happened? West Germany caught them cold with a bullet header from Horst Hrubesch, his second goal of the match.

If Ray Kennedy's shot had struck netting instead of Zoff's woodwork in the Italy game, England would have been in that Final.

If Tony Woodcock's "goal" against Belgium had been allowed, we, not they, would have been in the Final.

One goal seemed to divide everything. Three games were goalless, three games producing only one goal, only one match was decided by more than one goal. It didn't take a pocket calculator to work out that the average goals per game was

under two.

Yet there were plus factors to be cherished from the tournament. One of the most absorbing games I saw was the 0-0 draw between Italy and Spain. Arconada and Zamora of Spain were superb, and Italy's Antognoni impressed me immensely.

How many times have you heard it said in England that Archie Gemmill's days are numbered; that Forest's John McGovern and Larry Lloyd are over the hill; that Martin Peters ought to think about management and hang-up his boots; that Emlyn Hughes is past it and Dave Watson nearing it.

Peter Osgood's planned return at Brentford came as a shock, but at 33, Ossie should be running as hard as Watson, Peters and the other over thirties.

Pedigree

It occurred to me that Wilfred Van Moer might enjoy playing in England and proving the critics wrong. Belgium's midfield general is a pedigree player at 35 and can come to Palace anytime he likes.

Italy without Rossi is like England without Keegan, so they have their excuses for failure. Graziani is one of the hardest workers I've seen and Scirea and Gentile reminded me of Seb Coe and Steve Ovett in their stealthy runs upfield. A bit harder in the tackle perhaps!

We must learn to get our defenders forward like that. It's difficult for any defence to pick-up men who come from such deep positions.

Briegel and Schuster were my pick of the West German team and Hrubesch showed Europe that there is still a place for a "dreadnought" type centre-forward if he is mobile enough.

Tactically, the Belgium side impressed me. They employed an



Raimondo Ponte should do well at Forest.

effective offside trap against England to frustrate Johnson and Woodcock; switched to deep defence to foil the Italian's at their own game; and swept into rapid counter-attacks to surprise Spain with goals by Gerets and Cools.

West Germany will take some beating in Spain in two years time. The European Champions have been shorn of household names like Netzer, Overath, Muller, Brietner, Maier and Hoeness yet turn out new stars like R.A.D.A. produces actors.

Kevin Keegan and Tony Woodcock reckon they have several more stars waiting in the wings.

Don't be fooled by the comparatively small cheque (£230,000) Brian Clough has written to sign Raimondo Ponte, who was born in Italy 25 years ago.

He has shown a lot of class in Zurich Grasshoppers' midfield and should blend well in Forest's left-sided triangle comprising Frank Gray and John Robertson.

It shows you don't always have to break the bank to get the player you want.

I thought England fans would be interested in the World Cup qualifying dates I've entered in my diary — September 10, England v Norway; October 15, Rumania v England; November 19, England v Switzerland; April 29 1981, England v Rumania; May 30, Switzerland v England; June 6, Hungary v England; September 9, Norway v England.

Enfant terrible



"Ronnie Simpson was an unorthodox 'keeper in the Pat Jennings mould, but was nevertheless an effective member of both Celtic and Scotland teams."

EVEN though clubs are all back in pre-season training, there isn't much soccer news around. Next season is still almost a month away, so this week I'm going to take the chance to reply to a letter I received from Dundee reader Robert McEwan, who asked me to name the best-ever Scottish XI from players I had seen.

There have been many Great Scots, although strangely we have never been too well off for goalkeepers. I remember when I was a kid I didn't mind playing in goal, but if we were winning 23-0 or something silly I became bored. Often, I recall, the lad who played in goal did so because he wasn't too good elsewhere.

I can't offer any real reason why Scotland hasn't produced many outstanding 'keepers, although I get a wee bit annoyed at English jibes against Scottish goalies.

People down South only see glimpses on television and I maintain our goalkeepers are better than many folk in England make out.

It's a fact that only around ten are full-time and as goalkeeping is so specialised, perhaps 'keepers suffer more than most from the part-time set-up.



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"Eric Caldwell (dark shirt) was a full-back who suffered from the restrictive defensive duties of the 60's."

triumphs. As a captain, he led by example and was a fine example.

I played against Billy when he was nearing the end of his career and although he was at the veteran stage, was still a difficult opponent. Billy was more than just a stopper and used to score some valuable goals from set-piece movements.

The sweeper as we know it wasn't really in evidence during the early 60's, so my choice to play alongside Billy is MARTIN BUCHAN, who never seems to have a bad game for Manchester United.

He isn't the type to close-mark a forward; instead, he reads the game so well he usually cuts out the danger before it appears.

When playing against Martin, I try to go at him, looking for the ball played 'over the top' at me. The United skipper is no slouch, though, and I've always had a good tussle against him.

ration.

Paddy couldn't run but didn't have to. He made football look easy with his shrewd scorer brain and inch-perfect passes. The sign of a truly great player is when he makes difficult things appear simple: Paddy Crerand did that.

It was easy selecting my strike-

force, the two top goal-men ever to come out of Scotland. I mean, of course, DENIS LAW and KENNY DALGLISH.

There isn't much I can say about either that you don't know already. Denis and Kenny have both set records for Scotland and I can't imagine my side ever failing to score with this pair in attack.

To supply the crosses, I plumped for WILLIE HENDERSON over Jimmy Johnstone. Willie was more direct; he got to the bye-line as quickly as possible and his centres invariably found their man.

Jimmy was a fine winger, too, but often frustrated his forwards by wanting to beat the same player four times! Great entertainment, but not when you're a centre-forward and have just made a 40-yard run!

I'll allow myself the indulgence of naming myself as sub for the side. On second thoughts, looking at the line-up I'd be happy just to be ball boy.

See you in two weeks,

Andy Gray

SCOTS!



Andy Gray
WRITES
FOR YOU

My choice for all-time XI must be RONNIE SIMPSON, whose international career began late, when he was nearer 40 than 30.

The former Celtic star was somewhat unorthodox, like Pat Jennings, and saved a lot of shots with his body or legs. Even so, he was very effective and I had a long career at club level, even if he won just five Scotland caps.

Before his injury, DANNY McGRAIN was probably Scotland's only undisputed world-class player. He had everything; unlike many full-backs, I Danny was good in both defence and attack. Often, an adventurous defender can be caught napping, but not Danny.

I recall his display when Scotland beat England 2-1 at Wembley in 1977: he was absolutely magnificent. Ever since, Danny is still as hard as nails and has rightly been recalled to the Scotland team.

He uses his head rather than his legs, making the most of his vast experience. Danny can play either on the right or the left, but I'm selecting him in the number two shirt.

You'd be hard-pushed to find a more reliable or dominant centre-half than BILLY McNEILL. During the glory years with Celtic, he played a major part in their many

If you met Martin in the street and didn't know what he did for a living, you'd never guess he was a footballer.

To complete my back-four, yet another captain; this time ERIC CALDOW, the distinguished Rangers left-back of yesteryear. Eric was a very cultured full-back for his time (the 60's), one of the first footballing full-backs.

I reckon Eric would have been appreciated even more if he were playing today. He was somewhat restricted by the pattern of play and was capable of more.

Greatest

The very first name on my team-sheet was that of JIM BAXTER. Slim Jim was not so much pencilled in as penned in. He's one of the greatest players I've ever seen and it's a tragedy that English fans never saw the best of him with Sunderland and Forest.

Looking back, it was Jim's biggest mistake to leave Rangers, but he'd broken a leg and may have been looking for a change of environment. Although he had some tremendous games for Scotland, most English supporters don't realise how good Jim was.

If I wrote down every superlative I could think of, they would just about sum up how highly I rated the Rangers star, my boyhood hero.

Alongside Jim in midfield I'd have BILLY BREMNER and PADDY CRRAND. Billy was a dynamo, a fighter, a player who never accepted anything but victory.

He was one of the best skippers Scotland ever had, leading by inspi-



"Kenny Dalglish would have scored a hatful of goals playing alongside the legendary Denis Law."



Tom English, a worthy successor to Ian Wallace.

The man at the helm since June, 1972, Gordon Milne, was faced with the awesome prospect of selling a promising team in order to see off the receiver. It was that desperate.

During his eight years at Coventry, Milne could have been forgiven more than once for thinking he was playing the game of high

a very young playing staff.

"I have four or five players that can go on to play football at the highest level, if they are looked after properly."

You won't get him to name names, but Milne is talking about England youth strikers, Mark Hateley — son of Tony — and Tommy English. Powerful coloured front-runner Garry Thompson. Scottish Under-21 defender Garry Gillespie.

Milne has so much faith in his 'Sky Babes' that he has allowed top striker Ian Wallace to go to

THE COVENTRY CITY SURVIVAL

finance, not managing a football club.

The story is well known now. Out went Dennis Mortimer, Willie Carr and Brian Alderson. Coventry survived, and so too did Milne.

And now, with a completely new side, Milne is on the verge of challenging for honours again.

"Every manager wants to be successful," he says. "But there aren't that many trophies to go round. Bob Paisley and Brian Clough have had a monopoly on things recently!"

"I tasted success at Anfield as a player. Of course I want to win trophies as a manager. I can't promise that will be next season. But I am convinced we are on the right lines."

"My aim now is for an improvement on last season. Coventry must learn to be a little greedier. A little hungrier. But I have to be careful not to demand too much of

Nottingham Forest. He is also prepared to let Mick Ferguson move on.

Coventry's intent now cannot be questioned. They have money to spend. An ambitious £1 million bid to capture Trevor Francis when he was on the move from Birmingham City proves that.

Milne is rightly proud of what he has built at Highfield Road.

"People in the game think I am mad to stay here," he says. "But I get great personal satisfaction from what has been done."

"I believe I have been brought up on the right principles at Coventry. Had it not been for our careful policies we would have been in the Second Division a long time ago, and in a position where we would have found it very difficult to get back."

Milne's patience deserves to be rewarded. So too does the loyalty of the Coventry public.

It sounds a curious paradox for a manager to announce a determined effort to win one of football's major trophies in 1980-81 at the same time as he sells one of his best players, but that is the remarkable gesture by Coventry's Gordon Milne in the wind-up to the new season.

Milne reckons that the First Division club's prospects of clinching a trophy this season have been enhanced not harmed by the departure of Scottish international striker Ian Wallace to Nottingham Forest for £1.25 million.

He did not take kindly to Wal-

lace's parting remarks suggesting Coventry lack ambition.

"Coventry were a nice family club but I couldn't ever see them winning anything," said the Scot.

Wallace's sale has lifted some of the financial constraints Milne has had to overcome in recent seasons — and gives the former Liverpool player more freedom to mould a trophy-winning side.

Four years ago the club was almost bankrupt. A modern expensive stadium, high wages for the playing staff and dwindling crowds all combined to send Coventry plummeting into the red.

ONE of the unlikeliest places to find an international with 34 full caps must be with Hereford United of the Fourth Division.

But manager Frank Lord has persuaded former Polish international Adam Musial to leave his native country, and his side Arka Gdynia, for the harsh realities of the lowest

"He is a fine player, but I couldn't sign him until he reached the age of 30, a rule the Polish adhere to strictly," explained Lord.

"It was difficult to persuade the lad to join us, because he had set his heart on joining a more fashionable club."

"But he spent two weeks with



HEREFORD'S INTERNATIONAL STAR

regions of the Football League.

Musial, a defender who can also play in midfield, was a member of the side that astonished soccer by knocking England out of the 1974 World Cup. He also played in the Poland side that finished third in those Finals.

us, and was sufficiently impressed with the prospects at Edgar Street. Hereford is a nice place to live, and we have a smashing set-up, which I am sure he realised when he came here."

Lord, who succeeded Mike Bailey as manager last November,

has as his target the restoration of some of Hereford's old confidence.

"When I joined Hereford the general spirit was low, and I had a difficult task to lift the players. Some were prepared to work, others were not. Therefore, replacements have had to be

made, but I intend to have an 18 or 19 man squad ready for the new season."

Such is Lord's desire to put Hereford back on the road to success, he has scoured the country in search of fresh talent.

He began by signing Everton goalkeeper Drew Brand and followed that with Ian Dobson from Hull, Richard Overson from Burnley, Mel Pejic from Stoke, Gary Lowe from Manchester City and Jimmy Harvey from Arsenal. All are promising players, most were free transfers.

"I only require players who want to play for Hereford United, and are prepared to give 100 per cent in an effort to bring success to this club," says Lord.

Meanwhile, Lord continues to watch the Polish situation. "Top players from there are worth their weight in gold. They are class footballers who can also help the youngsters at Hereford."

ten clubs... 11 homes... 15 managers... that's the record of PETER WITHE — SOCCER'S STAR-TREKKER

TOMMY Docherty claims to have had more clubs than Jack Nicklaus, but now Peter Withe is challenging him for the title of soccer's most travelled man.

For, when Peter transferred to Aston Villa for a club record fee of £500,000, he was joining his tenth club.

Withe, an amiable 6ft 2in, 12 stone Liverpoolian is especially remembered for his goals which helped Nottingham Forest out of the Second Division and on to the road of success which brought him a League Champions' medal and a League Cup winners' tankard.

Now aged 28, his story goes back to his home city where he spent five years in the Liverpool docks as an apprentice electrician.

"That period opened my eyes. I was working from seven in the morning to seven at night, so when I was offered terms by Alec Parker, the Southport manager, I jumped at the chance," recalls Withe.

"But I was only on a three month trial period and when Jimmy Meadows took over as manager, I was allowed to leave.

"In fact, managerial changes have been a major reason for my moving so often. It seems when I sign for a club, I give the manager the kiss of death!

"I had only one game at Barrow before I was on the move again, this time to South Africa. Ironically, as I flew to join Port Elizabeth, unbeknown to me they had just been beaten 8-1, and one passenger on the return flight was the manager Billy Haydock!

"I spent a season with them, then joined Arcadia Shepherds. During my short stay there Derek Dougan guested for them, and he invited me to Wolves for a three

month trial. So I was on my travels again.

"Once more I was only at Wolves for a few months before joining Portland Timbers in America in 1974. While in the States, Freddie Goodwin took an interest in me, and I signed for Birmingham.

"But I missed the beginning of the season because Portland were involved in the play-offs, and after I returned, Freddie Goodwin was sacked, and Willie Bell, the new manager did not want to keep me."

Withe's next stop was Forest where he achieved his greatest successes to date although, as he is at pains to point out, he was still learning. "Although I was 25 I was inexperienced, especially at that level of the game."

Critics

When he moved to Newcastle, some critics suggested he was a bad buy.

"I knew what they were thinking. I had cost £250,000 and was expected to become another Milburn or Macdonald. Well, I think I proved what I can do and Villa would not have paid out half a million if they had not thought I was worth it."

Withe also received offers to join Leeds and Everton but chose Villa because manager, Ron Saunders, convinced him that he was joining a club with a bright future.

"They have a good young side and there are several players — Gary Shaw, Brian Little, David Geddis and Tony Morley — all battling for the attacking positions, which must be a healthy sign.

"It was a difficult decision to leave Newcastle. But I thought

that at my age, another year in the Second Division would not help me win anything. I don't think Newcastle are quite ready to gain major honours — I hope I'm proved wrong — and when you win medals like I did at Forest, you

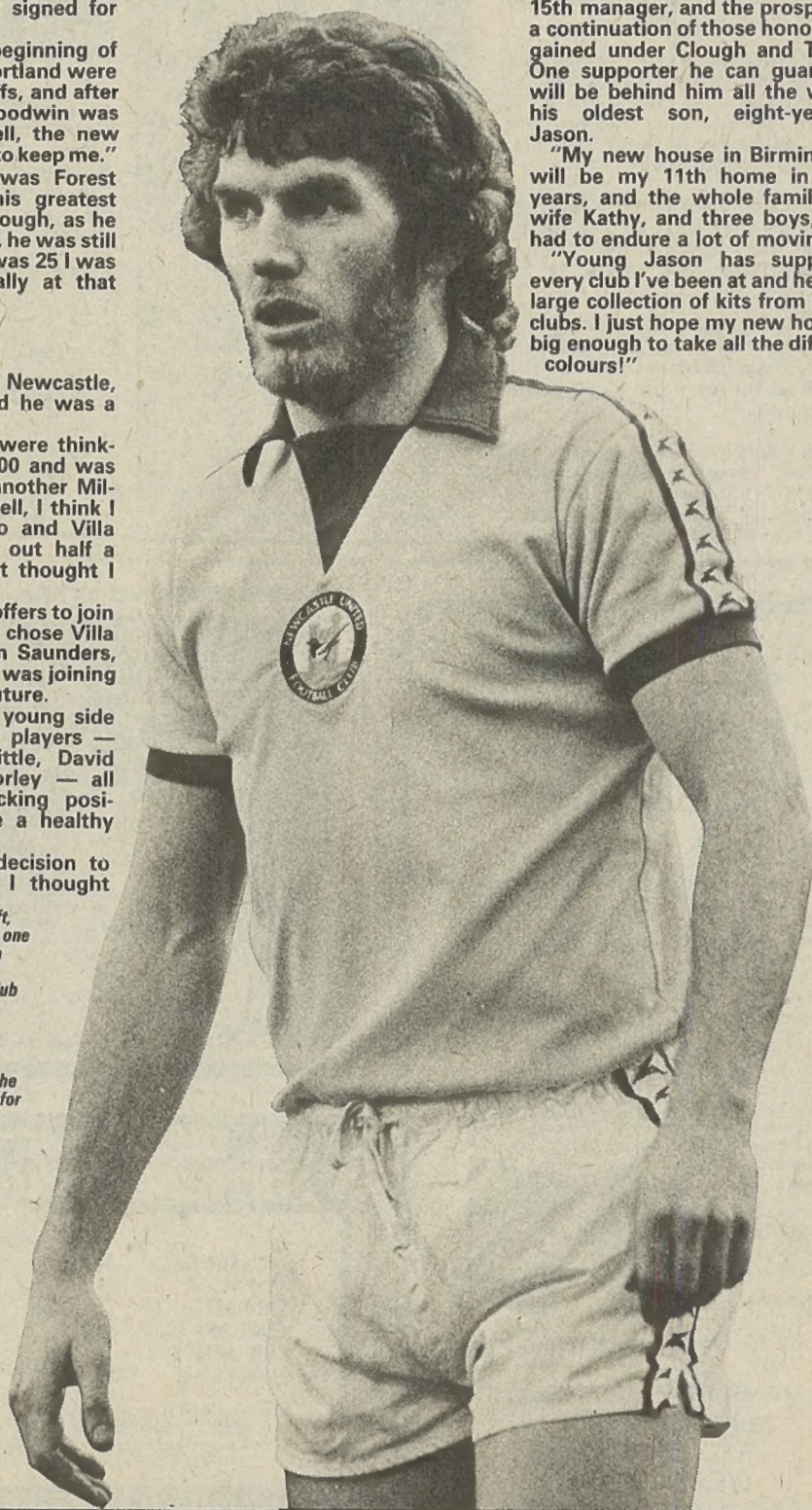
get a craving for further success."

Does the £500,000 fee worry him? "If there is any pressure, then it's only a third of the pressure Andy Gray has had to suffer."

So Peter Withe begins a new season with a new club, under his 15th manager, and the prospect of a continuation of those honours he gained under Clough and Taylor. One supporter he can guarantee will be behind him all the way is his oldest son, eight-year-old Jason.

"My new house in Birmingham will be my 11th home in eight years, and the whole family, my wife Kathy, and three boys, have had to endure a lot of moving.

"Young Jason has supported every club I've been at and he has a large collection of kits from all the clubs. I just hope my new house is big enough to take all the different colours!"



David Geddis (left, dark strip) is just one of the Aston Villa players whose position at the club will be put in jeopardy by the arrival of much-travelled striker Peter Withe from Newcastle for £500,000.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Bolton Wanderers goalkeeper Jim McDonagh moved across Lancashire to which First Division club for a fee of £250,000?

2. Another player on the move was Derby County defender David Langan (right). Did the Republic of Ireland international cost his new club Birmingham City £250,000, £350,000 or £450,000?

3. Manager George Kirby recently became the first paid director under the new Football League rulings. With which club is he serving?

4. Which former Derby County and Leicester City striker recently scored his third hat-trick of the summer for American club Seattle Sounders?

5. Did Alex Stepney, Harry Gregg or Dave Gaskell keep goal for Manchester United in their 3-1 win against Leicester City in the 1963 F.A. Cup Final at Wembley?



7. Stoke City's Brendan O'Callaghan is a full international for which country?

8. If you support the Scottish club from the Recreation Ground next season — will you be following Ayr United, Airdrie or Alloa?

9. As a player, with Leeds United, did Billy Bremner (left) gain any Scotland Under-23 honours?

10. Can you name the two foreign clubs who hold the European Cup-Winners' Cup and the U.E.F.A. Cup?

ANSWERS:

1. Everton. 2. £350,000. 3. Cup. 4. Gaskell. 5. Republic of Ireland. 6. Alec Stock. 7. Raith, Bury. 8. Dundee, Lincoln. 9. Clasp. 10. Val-Elntacht Frankfurt (U.E.F.A. Cup-Winners' Cup), and Eintracht Frankfurt (U.E.F.A. Cup).

PUZZLE TIME ANSWERS:

TEAM PARTNERS:

1. Clyde, Reading;
2. Ayr, Liverpool;
3. Raith, Bury;
4. Alloa, Grimsby;
5. Hearts, York;
6. Celtic, Arsenal;
7. Hamilton, Derby;
8. Dundee, Lincoln.

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1. Fairy;
2. Under;
3. down: Rangers;
4. Trial;
5. Using;
6. Reign;
7. Pairs;
8. Clasp;
9. Clasp;
10. Clasp.

SHOOT'S Computer Puzzle answers:

- 1 Wrexham.
- 2 1978-79.
- 3 Left.
- 4 Wales.
- 5 Jimmy Greenhoff.
- 6 1954.

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(MICKEY THOMAS)

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- 1 Previous club
- 2 Joined Manchester United before start of the season.
- 3 Plays on the side of midfield.
- 4 Won first of 21 full caps for West Germany in 1977.
- 5 Supplied cross for winning goal against Liverpool in the 1979 F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay.
- 6 Born 7th July, 19...4.

Computer performance rating: 6 Superb; 5 Excellent; 4 Knowledgeable; 3 Good.

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GRAHAM RIX

GRAHAM Rix's agonising penalty miss in the European Cup-Winners' Cup Final two months ago gave him more reason than any other Arsenal player for wanting to forget the bitterly disappointing end to the season.

Yet while that night in Brussels, coupled with defeat at Wembley in the F.A. Cup and failure to qualify for a place in next season's U.E.F.A. Cup must surely rate as the lad's biggest ever disappointment — in direct contrast, the big kick-off, in August, could herald his greatest ever challenge.

For make no mistake about it, with the future of Liam Brady uncertain, Rix could find the footballing world at his feet.

The opportunity to assume the role of orchestrator-in-chief on the field for Arsenal is there for the taking. To become The Master Gunner.

Effectively

Ever since his arrival at Highbury, Rix and Liam Brady, the player who has so effectively pulled the strings for the club for several seasons now, have been the greatest of pals.

Yet, ironically, many observers feel that it's the very presence of the genial Irishman which may have inhibited Rix in his own development.

Such is the rigid pattern of play adopted by the London club, that only Brady enjoyed anything like the freedom to express himself to the full. Rix's own talents have been sacrificed for the system.

It's no secret Graham was less than happy at being asked to perform in the role that coach Don Howe had earmarked for him when he first came into the side.

"I told Don I was a left-half, and



The New

Master Gunner?

he was asking me to play left-wing," said Rix. "He replied that I could play left-half in the reserves, or left-wing in the first team."

But now the midfield position he would really like is about to be vacated.

And although he's obviously sorry to see his great buddy go, Graham is understandably champing at the bit.

"I don't let people boss me about now," says Graham. "If they have a go at me, I'll have a go back. You've got to be hard if you want to be a real winner. And I want to be another Kevin Keegan or Liam Brady. A superstar."

Realistically, that kind of acclaim was never going to come within the restricted role he'd been asked to perform. Even so, his progress has been impressive. His England Under-21 and 'B' caps bear testimony to that. But it's a firm belief that all we've seen so far is just the tip of the iceberg.

Balance, pace, vision... all the qualities of an outstanding

midfield player are there. Plus a left foot that's as polished and precisioned as a fine jewel.

Who will forget his delightful surge past three players, then inch-perfect cross in the game against Juventus in Turin, which led to the goal that defeated the Italians, and won Arsenal a place in the Cup-Winners' Cup Final? Or the fact that in that cat-and-mouse Final itself, Rix was streets ahead of anyone else on either side?

It must be more than mere coincidence that in both those games, it was Brady who was seen by the opposition as posing the major threat to them, and consequently marked out of the action.

That meant Rix was forced to assume far greater responsibility, with the results we've highlighted.

Don Howe himself said some time ago: "Give Graham the outlet, and there is no one to touch him."

Surely now is the time for Howe and manager Terry Neill to provide just such an opportunity.

If the signs are read correctly, that's exactly what could be in their minds, with the summer signing of £1 million-plus teenager Clive Allen being the key. If Allen is used alongside the two other Highbury front runners, the trio will represent a strike-force of true S.A.S. proportions.

For make no mistake, a Stapleton-Allen-Sunderland combination, with Rix supplying the ammunition, will strike fear into defences up and down the country.

At 22, Rix clearly has the best years of his career ahead of him. Obviously, there are certain areas of his game which need to be worked on. Not least of them being his poor record as a goalscorer.

Nonetheless for that, Howe is not alone when he predicts: "Graham is on the verge of being known throughout Europe for his ability."

"Everyone says he'll be the perfect stand-in for Liam Brady," says Don. "And that's his ambition. He'll become the boss. An Alan Ball figure, in fact."

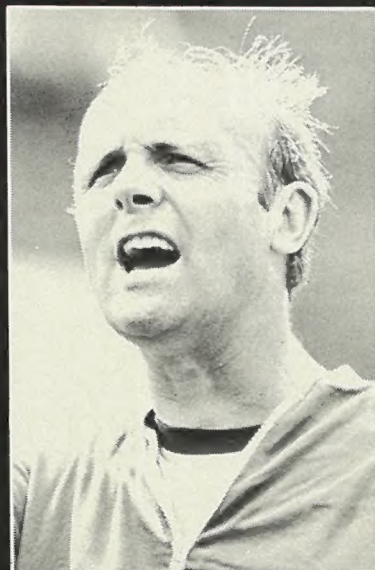
The irony there is, it was Ball, during his spell at Highbury, who was the first to rave publicly over the young lad from Doncaster.

"He's got so much skill it's frightening," declared Alan, at the time.

We could be on the verge of realising just how right Ball was.

With England's disappointment in the European Championship, Spain and the 1982 World Cup Finals is now the number one aim.

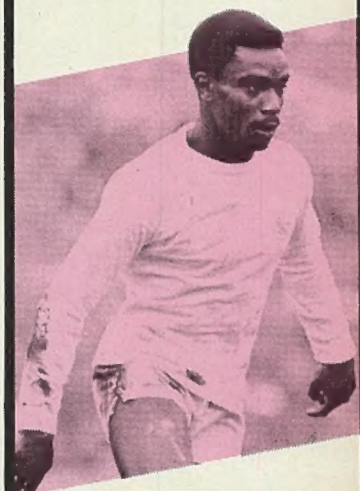
Rix is certain to play a significant part in Ron Greenwood's plans towards success in that tournament. And if he can assert as much influence as Ball did, back in 1966, then surely the wait will have been worth while.



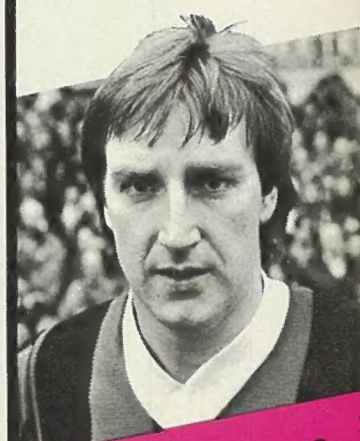
Arsenal coach Don Howe, who predicts a bright international future for Graham Rix.

NEXT WEEK

Should Kevin Keegan captain England? The verdict.



Laurie Cunningham (above) — Success or failure in Spain? Can Ipswich make the big time? Scotland international Alan Rough's £2 wage packet. Win World Soccer Encyclopedias in our exciting competition. Giant colour portrait of Peter Shilton. Film star Ossie Ardiles. Colour focus on Manchester City's £1 million star Steve Daley (below).



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**FOCUS
ON**

DAVID FAIRCLOUGH

LIVERPOOL



David Fairclough (red) moves in to tackle Crystal Palace's Terry Boyle.

FULL NAME: David Fairclough
BIRTHPLACE: Liverpool
BIRTHDATE: January 5, 1957
HEIGHT: 6 feet
WEIGHT: 11st. 4lbs.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: No
CAR: Toyota Celica XT
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mail
FAVOURITE PLAYER: None at the moment
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Sammy Lee
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Nobody really
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Roger Hunt

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Tennis and snooker
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They can all be difficult
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Our 5-3 win at Norwich last season when I scored my first hat-trick
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not being involved in the 1977 F.A. Cup Final
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: I don't know
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steaks and Chinese dishes
NICKNAME: None that I'll admit to!
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Relaxing and driving/ Bad manners and smoking

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Portugal
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Larry Hagman and Julia Foster
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing or playing snooker
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Detroit Spinners, Supertramp, Olivia Newton-John
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Quiet night out with my girlfriend
BEST FRIEND: I've got a few good friends
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My mum and dad, who set me on the right path early in my career

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: One England Under 21 cap and one England 'B' cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be successful and happy
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? A P.E. teacher
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Muhammad Ali

David Fairclough

SHOOT!